

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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NOVEMBER 30, 2023

'Only Developers Will Win'

Protesters converge on City Hall ahead of controversial vote.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Hundreds of residents from across the city converged in Market Square Nov. 25 to protest the city's Zoning for Housing initiative just days before the changes were unanimously passed by City Council.

"What we are really fed up with is the lack of trust and transparency in city government."

— Roy Byrd of the Coalition for a Livable Alexandria

"There is an unfortunate atmosphere that surrounds zoning debates in America today," said Will Shen of the Coalition for a

Livable Alexandria. "All Alexandrians should have a say in what gets built here. Do not let anyone shame you into thinking that your concerns about traffic, parking, privacy, flooding, trees, schools or crime are frivolous or selfish compared to the need for housing."

Opponents of the initiative sought to have the city defer its vote, which took place during a marathon City Council meeting Nov. 28, due to concerns about lack of sustainable infrastructure for new development.

"The Coalition is not against affordable housing," Shen said. "And we are definitely not against helping Alexandrians or city workers to remain living here. We are for change but change for the better. Zoning for Housing is clearly a change for the worse. The only winners will be the developers."

Residents, many holding signs in

SEE 'ONLY DEVELOPERS', PAGE 10



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Roy Byrd of the Coalition for a Livable Alexandria addresses the crowd during a protest against changes in zoning Nov. 25 in Market Square. City Council unanimously passed the changes during the Nov. 28 meeting.

Alexandria Ditches Jim Crow Zoning

Unanimous vote on City Council eliminates single-family housing.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Members of the Alexandria City Council are saying goodbye to a relic of the Jim Crow era that was created as a way to sideline and marginalize Black residents, single family zoning. A pair of initiatives known as "Zoning for Housing" and "Housing for All" were unanimously approved in a late-night vote earlier this week after an intense debate that prompted one opponent to suggest that members of the City Council be spanked.

"I have never seen a generational divide in the input quite like this one," said Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson. "The age of the people advocating on this was a pretty safe determinate of which side of the issue you were on."

By ditching exclusionary zoning, city officials say, properties that had previously been set aside for a single-family house can now be divided into as many as four dwelling units.

County Board members in Arlington re-



City Council chambers were packed during one of the public hearings on Zoning for Housing, which included many supporters and opponents.

"I've seen the market in this city destroy my generation. People are not able to stay here. People are not able to live here."

— Councilman John Taylor Chapman.

cently took a similar action they called "Missing Middle," although their version allows as many as six units. Here in Alexandria, city planners say, the new policy is expected to open the door for redevelopment of 66 properties, adding about 200 new units over the next decade.

"These reforms are progress toward erasing the vestiges of segregation and exclusion in our city's zoning code, and a critical step

SEE ALEXANDRIA DITCHES JIM, PAGE 11



Wendy Santantonio

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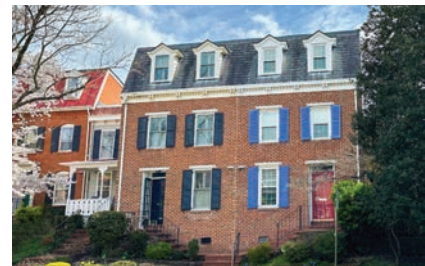
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NEWS

Making Merry

Scottish Walk weekend kicks off holiday season.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria's renowned Scottish Christmas Walk Parade returns Dec. 2 for the 52nd year as part of a weekend of holiday events across the city.

Celebrating its Scottish heritage, the parade will feature dozens of Scottish clans parading through the streets of Old Town, joined by pipe and drum bands, as well as terriers and hounds, community groups and more.

The parade will be led by Grand Marshals U.S. Rep. Don Beyer and his wife Megan Beyer, who serves as Director of the Office of Art in Embassies at the U.S. Department of State. The Beyers are longtime Alexandria residents.

The parade will begin at 11 a.m. and follow a route through Old Town culminating in the massed bands performance in front of City Hall.

Routes will be closed in the area by 9 a.m. for parade setup. Parking will be limited and residents are encouraged to take public transportation to the event.

Master of ceremonies will be Ian Houston, a nonprofit leader in the D.C. metro area who is a GlobalScot and works to promote cultural links between Scotland and the United States.

More than 120 units including nearly 35 Scottish clans from around the D.C. region and across the U.S. will be participating in the parade.

After the last parade unit has finished the parade route, participating pipe bands will reassemble at Market Square under the direction of City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums' Drum Major Joshua Cease for the massed band concert.

The Scottish Christmas Walk Parade is sponsored by Wegmans and produced by Visit Alexandria in partnership with Campagna Center and the City of Alexandria.

SEE SCOTTISH WALK WEEKEND PREVIEW, PAGE 9



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

The Scottish Walk parade will take place Dec. 2 through the streets of Old Town beginning at 11 a.m.



COURTESY IMAGE

The Scottish Walk Parade route will wind through the streets of Old Town culminating in front of Market Square.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

The Del Ray tree and menorah lighting will take place Dec. 3 at Pat Miller Neighborhood Square at 6 p.m.



JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Robert Dawkins, center, stands with fellow Alexandria African American Hall of Fame committee members Julian "Butch" Haley Jr. and Jimmy Lewis at the dedication of the Earl Lloyd statue April 3, 2021, at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Robert Dawkins, left, with brothers Arthur and Nolan.

Robert 'Old Folks' Dawkins

Founder of African American Hall of Fame dies at 83.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

He was known as "Old Folks" Dawkins, a term of endearment earned in his youth for being wiser beyond his years. A pillar of the community in adulthood, Robert Dawkins was content to remain in the shadows even as he worked tirelessly to recognize the trailblazers he felt went unheralded. On Nov. 16, the founder of the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame died following a short illness. He was 83.

"He did so much in furtherance of recognizing others and never took credit for it," said Dawkins' brother the Hon. Nolan Dawkins. "That was one of the most important parts of his life. In many ways he was very aggressive in life but also very humble at the same time, which is an oxymoron."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Robert Dawkins, founder of the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame, died Nov. 16 at the age of 83.

Born on Nov. 9, 1940, to Curtis and Mattie Dawkins, Dawkins grew up in Alexandria attending segregated schools including his



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Robert Dawkins, second from left, in a family photo. Pictured are his son Adrian Dawkins, brothers Arthur Dawkins and Nolan Dawkins, granddaughter Jordan Dawkins, great granddaughter Abby Dawkins, and son Curtis Dawkins.

"He did so much in furtherance of recognizing others and never took credit for it."

— The Hon. Nolan Dawkins of his brother Robert

beloved Parker-Gray High School.

"Robert had a gift, a vision of preserving the African American history of Alexandria," said Julian "Butch" Haley, chairman of the African American Hall of Fame. "He loved the city, loved the community and wanted to make the community aware of the rich African American history of Al-

exandria. He had the vision to highlight, acknowledge and showcase African Americans who meant something to the city. These people succeeded against all odds and excelled in their careers and he wanted to showcase that."

SEE OBITUARY, PAGE 5

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OBITUARY

Robert 'Old Folks' Dawkins

FROM PAGE 4

In founding the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame, Dawkins wrote, "Alexandria is a community full of significant African American history. Sometimes extraordinary people, often from humble beginnings, have endured decades of frustrations, have been embedded with unimaginable psychological scars, and in the end have not been adequately recognized for their accomplishments and contributions to local and national history. Their history is far greater than one can imagine."

In addition to the African American Hall of Fame, Dawkins founded the Hoop Academy.

"This was a testament to his belief in the power of sports to inspire and mentor the next generation," said his niece Ashley Dawkins. "Through this foundation, he taught the skills of the game but also instilled values of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance that extended far beyond the basketball court."

Dawkins is survived by his wife Romaine, brothers Nolan and Arthur, sister Betsy, children Adrian and Curtis Dawkins, great-grandchildren Abby and Saint, and grandchildren Antoine, Jordan, James, and Brian. He was predeceased by grandson Julian Dawkins.



Robert Dawkins, left, with his siblings the Hon. Nolan Dawkins, Betsy Holmes and Dr. Arthur Dawkins PhD.

A memorial service will be held Dec. 2 at Heart of God International Church, 7323 Steel Mill Drive, in Springfield. Viewing from 9-11 a.m. with service from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A repass will follow at the Nannie J. Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson Street in Alexandria.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 1051 Alexandria, VA 22313 www.aaahof.org

"He was a mentor, father figure, educator," Haley said of Dawkins. "I am a better man today because of Robert Dawkins."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Robert Dawkins and his wife Romaine in an undated photo.



JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET
The Robert Dawkins commemorative brick at the Parker-Gray Memorial Walkway in front of the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

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Virginia Program Offers Tax Credits for Donations

Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program for Education

By KEVIN W. JAHNS
SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF ALEXANDRIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

If you could pay part of your annual tax bill in the form of a donation to a very worthwhile local charitable organization - instead of through a check to the government, would you?

Believe it or not, a little-known Virginia program called The Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program for Education allows you to do just that! The program, offered through the Virginia Department of Education, offers tax credits of up to 65% for donations to just over 80 approved neighborhood organizations, including the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria.

These tax credits are a powerful tool for Virginia taxpayers, both individuals and companies, interested in supporting education at the local level. Approved organizations like the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria can offer you a 65% tax credit to be applied to your Virginia state income taxes. If you were to give \$1,000 to the Scholarship Fund, you would receive a \$650 tax credit to pay your Virginia state tax bill. This is a tax credit, not a tax deduction - directly reducing your total tax bill.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student Walkout In Support of Palestine; How to Define Genocide

To the editor:

Alexandria City High School students' Nov. 9 walk out in support of Palestine exemplifies what commentators will in time recognize as GenZ's remarkable audaciousness within the full range of that word's connotations, from intrepidly daring to recklessly bold to contemptuous of decorum. Their spontaneity shows they comprehend the Israeli counterattack on Gaza's disproportionate impact on civilians, which many in the U.S. the military and foreign-policy establishment too readily dismiss.

Two accusations of antisemitism levelled at the students for characterizing the Israeli response in Gaza as a genocide do, however, warrant response:

On Nov. 13, the Center for Constitutional Rights filed a lawsuit against President Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III for complicity with genocide. The lawsuit, filed in San Francisco federal court on behalf of Palestinian individuals and organizations, requests that the U.S. stop "providing further arms, money, and diplomatic support to Israel on grounds that there is an unfolding genocide

... against the civilian population of Gaza." Originally established to provide legal and financial support to lawyers representing civil rights activists in Mississippi fighting racial segregation, the Center later distinguished itself by suing on behalf of the Guantanamo Bay detainees, leading to, for the first time in U.S. history, the Supreme Court ruling against the president on behalf of alleged enemy fighters in wartime.

Their court submission includes an expert declaration by three leading Holocaust and genocide studies scholars: Victoria Sanford, Barry Trachtenberg, and John Cox. Sanford has written extensively on genocide and state violence in Latin America, especially in the case of Guatemala. Trachtenberg and Cox have published widely on the Holocaust. Their report stresses that the "levels of destruction and killings in just over one month, together with the annihilatory language expressed by Israeli state leaders and senior army officers, point not to targeting of individual Hamas militants or Hamas military targets, but to the unleashing of deadly violence against Palestinians in Gaza 'as such,' in the lan-

guage of the U.N. Genocide Convention." On Oct. 15, over 800 international law, Holocaust, genocide, and conflict scholars, including Omer Bartov and Marion Kaplan who have shaped the field of Holocaust and genocide studies, wrote, "We are compelled to sound the alarm about the possibility of the crime of genocide being perpetrated by Israeli forces against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip." Raz Segal, associate professor of Ho-

There are also ways in which this tool can be even more powerful. When you pay your tax bill, you must pay it in cash. But your donation to an approved neighborhood organization like the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria can be made with appreciated securities, enabling you to avoid a potentially substantial capital gain on the eventual sale of the securities. Or it can be made as part of your required minimum distribution from your Individual Retirement Account.

Your donations to the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria are also an amazingly powerful tool. As a Scholarship Fund of Alexandria donor and volunteer I'm overwhelmed each year by the impact I see our supporters have made in the lives of Alexandria City High School students and their families in our community. Beyond the scholarships, many students would never make it through the complicated college application process or know how to apply to career and technical programs without the substantial advisory help provided by our SFA staff, housed right in the ACHS building. Our dedicated staff helps students find their way to the right program and decipher the financial aid package to make sure it works for their family. Often, they'd still have a tuition gap to close - which is where an SFA scholarship often makes the difference in making those college dreams possible.

Some compelling numbers that help illustrate the need, the effort and the support provided by SFA:

- ❖ More than 60% of Alexandria City High

School students are living at or below the federal poverty level

- ❖ More than 60% of SFA scholarship recipients are the first in their family to apply to college

- ❖ \$1.4 million in scholarship funds were provided through SFA in 2023 alone

- ❖ Community members and businesses, including SFA recipients, have helped thousands of students attend college

- ❖ Over the past 37 years, SFA has granted nearly \$18 million in scholarships to Alexandria students.

Since its inception, SFA has been a great example of broad community support at work. The vast majority of SFA funding comes via relatively modest donations from parents, teachers, administrators, businesses, neighbors and friends who understand the importance of supporting education at the community level. While the amount of each donation certainly matters, the sheer number of supporters is what has made the difference to so many students over time.

I hope you'll consider joining me and so many Alexandria community members in supporting the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria and taking advantage of the Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program. For information, I encourage you to contact the Scholarship Fund today at scholarshipfund@acps.k12.va.us or 703-824-6730 and our staff will be happy to provide you with the necessary information to make the tax credit process quick and easy.

SEE OPINION, PAGE 7

Submit a Letter to the Editor

To submit a letter to the editor, email editors@connectionnewspapers.com or via the following form <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

Ideally, letters will be original, about local issues and less than 300 words. Please submit letters by noon Friday before publication week, although letters received on Mondays can be considered. Letters must include your first and last name, home address and a phone number. Letters are routinely edited for libel, length, grammar, good taste and accuracy. Your name and town will be published with your letter, other personal information will not be shared. If you are a student, your school name, age and grade will also be published.

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OPINION

FROM PAGE 6

on Gaza. Those bombs are killing disproportionate numbers of civilians, much as napalm did when the U.S. dropped it on Vietnam. Just as Americans reasonably condemned U.S. use of napalm in Vietnam and demanded napalm be outlawed, the ACHS students are not “demonizing” the Israelis by raising reasonable objections to the U.S. financing and supporting Israeli military tactics in Gaza.

Pulitzer-winning freelancer and illustrator Mona Chalabi recently lamented print journalism’s reluctance to use the ‘P-word’ for Palestine, the term for the territory since 2nd Century A.D. Roman Emperor Hadrian. Very much to the Alexandria Gazette Packet’s credit, you put the ‘P-word’ in your front-page headline.

Dino Drudi
Alexandria, VA

Children’s and Teen’s Connection/Gazette

Our annual Children’s Connection, including the Children’s Gazette, has been a long-standing tradition. We are once again welcoming contributions from children, youth, and teens in public and private schools, as well as homeschool, after-school care, and other programs, art and writing classes, and from individuals.

We publish images of all types of visual art forms, from drawing, painting, printmaking, and graphic design to sculpture, extended media, crafts, and more. We welcome written works such as poetry, essays, opinion pieces, and short stories.

Visit <http://www.connection-newspapers.com/PDFs/> and scroll down to the Children’s Edition to see last year’s editions. Our plan is for the Children’s Connection/Gazette to publish the week of December 20, 2023, with overflow possible in January 2024.

Submission Directions

Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format. These can be submitted via Google Drive. Writing should be submitted in text format (docx or Google Docs) or pasted in

the body of an email. We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email.

Identify each submission as follows:

<First Name> <Last Name>, <Age>, <Grade>, <Residence Location (Reston Herndon, Springfield, etc.)>, <Title of the Work>, <Medium or Type of Writing> | <School/Center Name>, <School Location>, <Teacher Name>, < Title>

Artwork example

Sean Murphy, 12, Grade 7, Springfield, Summer Morning, watercolor on parchment | Irving Middle School, Springfield, VA, Elizabeth Carr, art teacher, MS

Writing example

Martina Alvarez, 17, Junior, Alexandria, I’m Not Just a Teen, essay | Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria, VA, Gratia Rodriguez, English Teacher, HS

Please email your submissions by 6 p.m. on Monday, December 11, 2023, [Earlier is Better] to Editor and Publisher Mary Kimm at kimm.mary@gmail.com and fill in the Subject Line as Children’s Connection 2023

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COMMUNITY



Volunteers prepare to serve Friendsgiving dinner Nov. 21 at Charles Houston Recreation Center.



Volunteers serve a pre-Thanksgiving meal to attendees at the Friendsgiving dinner Nov. 21 at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

Friendsgiving

Hundreds turn out for community dinner.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Hundreds of children and families gathered at Charles Houston Recreation Center Nov. 21 as the annual Friendsgiving dinner was celebrated in the community.

"We've been doing this for about 11 years now," said Alexandria Recreation and Community Specialist Michael Johnson, the coordinator of the event.

Volunteers were on hand to cook and serve the pre-Thanksgiving meal to families from across the city.

"The dinner was originally started with the Alexandria Police Department and the recreation department as a way to get first responders and community members more engaged with each other," Johnson said. "It's an opportunity to incorporate our law enforcement community with the community that they serve."

The event was sponsored by the Alexandria Sheriff's Office, the Alexandria Police Department, Keith and Michelle Burns and the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

"It is our hope that in sitting down and interacting more with one another we can learn each other's names, be more respectful and hopefully cut down on some of the crime in the city," Johnson said. "That is my hope in bringing everyone together."

"The dinner was originally started with the Alexandria Police Department and the recreation department as a way to get first responders and community members more engaged with each other,"

— Friendsgiving coordinator Michael Johnson

PHOTOS BY
JANET BARNETT/
GAZETTE PACKET



Members of the Owens family enjoy Friendsgiving dinner Nov. 21 at Charles Houston Recreation Center.

NEWS BRIEFS

Pedestrian Struck, Critically Injured

A driver hit a pedestrian causing her life-threatening injuries on the evening of Nov. 17. At approximately 6:20 p.m., Alexandria Police responded to the report of a pedestrian being struck by a vehicle in the 100 block of North Ripley Street. The adult female suffered critical injuries and was transported to the hospital. The driver of the vehicle remained on the scene. Traffic flow on North Ripley Street was blocked for a short time while investi-

gators contacted possible witnesses. The APD Crash Team is investigating this incident. Anyone with information or who may have witnessed this incident is asked to call Crash Team Investigator M. Garcia at 703.746.6178.

Woman Found Dead in Vehicle on King Street

On Nov. 27, 2023 at approximately 8:11 a.m., an adult

female was discovered deceased in a vehicle in the 4300 block of King Street.

The Office of the Medical Examiner will determine the cause and manner of death.

While the investigation is ongoing, police say they currently believe there is no immediate cause for public concern.

APD continues to investigate this incident and urges anyone with information to call our non-emergency line at 703.746.4444. Tips can be provided anonymously.

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 13



PHOTO BY EVAN MICHIO/VISIT ALEXANDRIA

The Holiday Boat Parade of Lights will take place Dec. 2 along the Old Town waterfront.

Scottish Walk Weekend Preview

FROM PAGE 3

Following the parade, Waterfront Park at the foot of King Street will feature a pop-up beer garden from Port City Brewing Company with hard cider from Lost Boy Cider and hot chocolate from Dolci Gelati.

Holiday music from 97.1 WASH-FM will deliver a festive atmosphere, and their street team will round out the Waterfront Park experience with giveaways from 3 to 5 pm.

Also at Waterfront Park, from 1 to 5:30 p.m. enjoy hands-on activities including ornament and watercolor holiday card making and a Letters to Santa post-card station.

At 3:30 p.m., Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive by fireboat at the Alexandria City Marina.

The evening will end with the 23rd Annual Holiday Boat Parade of Lights sponsored by Amazon. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., more than 50 brightly lit boats will cruise along one mile of the Potomac River shoreline from Canal Center to Ford's Landing Park.

Canal Center on the Old Town North waterfront will host family friendly activities from 3 to 9 p.m. A holiday bazaar of arts, crafts, vintage goods and more will be featured along with The Gallery at Canal Center art exhibition presented by Galactic Panther. Live music from 3 to 8 p.m. from Yellow Door Concert Series featuring perennial holiday jazz favorites such as Vince Guaraldi's A Charlie Brown Christmas and other classics.

The Holiday Boat Parade is produced by Visit Alexandria in collaboration with the City of Alexandria, City Cruises-Alexandria and the Old Dominion Boat Club.

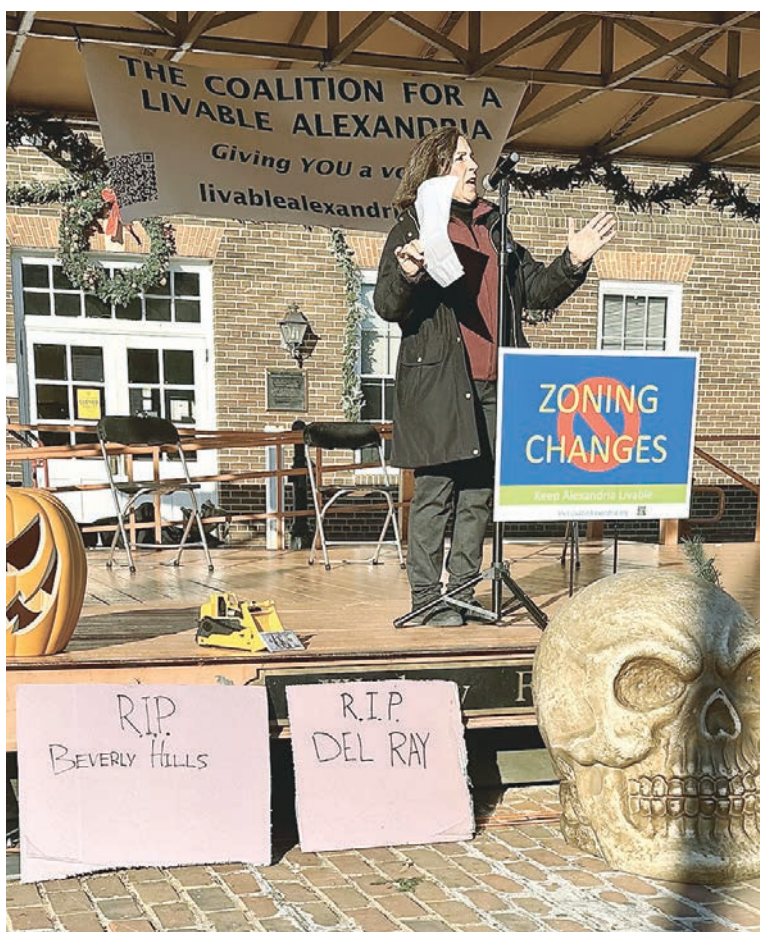
Del Ray will be the place to be on Dec. 3 with the annual Christmas tree lighting, Menorah lighting and holiday carols beginning at 6 p.m. Hand-painted holiday windows in storefronts decorate Mount Vernon Avenue, which will be illuminated by thousands of luminarias, a tradition started by the late Nancy Dunning.

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Sylvia Alimena speaks at the protest to changes in zoning Nov. 25 in Market Square.



Protesters hold signs in opposition to the proposed changes in zoning Nov. 25 at Market Square. City Council unanimously passed the changes Nov. 28.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

‘Only Developers Will Win’

FROM PAGE 1

opposition to the zoning changes, joined Shen in seeking to have the city revisit the initiative.

“We want the city to slow down and not vote on Tuesday,” Shen said. “We want the city to deal with the nine pieces of this proposal one by one so they can be discussed in detail rather than bundled in a take-it-or-leave-it package. And we want them to actually listen to and act in the interest of the people who live here.”

Sylvia Alimena, a 38-year resident of the Lincolnia Hills neighborhood of Alexandria, also addressed the crowd.

“Our population since the last census has dropped by 5,000 people yet we are building all of this housing,” Alimena said. “Most of it is luxury housing that few can afford. We know that housing is a huge issue in our city but it is



not availability, it is affordability that is the issue. What the city has allowed to be built in the last 8-10 years has segregated the city even further just on socioeconomic terms.”

A large makeshift taxi was part of the protest display, playing the Joni Mitchell song Big Yellow Taxi, known for the lyrics “They paved paradise to put up a parking lot.”

“This is a manufactured hous-

A display at the Nov. 25 protest featured the Joni Mitchell song The Big Yellow Taxi, known for the lyrics “They paved paradise to put up a parking lot.”

ing crisis,” said Roy Byrd, another speaker at the event. “The city’s own website touts that we are in 100 percent compliance when it comes to fair housing, meaning I can live anywhere I want. But that is not what Zoning for Housing tells you. It tells you the exact opposite. But what we are really fed up with is the lack of trust and transparency in city government.”

Much of the opposition to the Zoning for Housing initiative centered on the changes that will allow townhouses and small apartment buildings to be built in neighborhoods currently zoned for single family homes.

“In all my years here I never expected the city to want to change zoning in residential neighborhoods,” Alimena said. “Keep writing to city government and keep expressing your opinions. This will not be the end.”

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.

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 Trunk events, etc. [https://www.volunteer-](https://www.volunteeralexandria.org)

alexandria.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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

Alexandria Ditches Jim Crow Zoning

FROM PAGE 1

on the long journey to address our housing crisis,” said Peter Sutherland, Alexandria lead for YIMBYs of NoVA. “Passing Zoning for Housing is a momentous step toward a better future for all Alexandrians.”

THE HISTORY of racist zoning in Virginia begins in April 1911, when Richmond adopted an ordinance dividing the city into blocks for white and “colored” residents. Falls Church and several other Virginia cities followed suit, although the United States Supreme Court declared that explicit racial segregation zoning was unconstitutional in 1917.

“In response, proponents of racial segregation found new ways to use zoning to support their agenda by incorporating class-based language, such as compatible use and nuisance abatement,” wrote Krystyn Moon in a detailed history of zoning in Alexandria. “The prioritization of single-family dwellings over all other forms of land use adversely affected poorer residents and, in Alexandria, especially African Americans.”

African Americans were targeted by racist zoning practices when city leaders zoned their properties for industrial use. Alexandria’s first zoning map applied industrial zoning to about 100 residential structures, most of which were occupied by Black residents. Meanwhile, white neighborhoods were protected by single-family zoning. In addition to the zoning ordinance, restrictive covenants added a layer of explicit racism.

“All premises covered by these restrictions shall be occupied or used for private dwelling purposes only, by one family only, by persons of the Caucasian Race, but

not excluding bona fide servants of any race,” according to a 1947 covenant for Temple Terrace.

ZONING FOR HOUSING prompted an intense debate that mirrored recent controversies over bike lanes and bus lanes, often with the same partisans making similar arguments. Opponents created a group known as Coalition for a Livable Alexandria and installed yard signs across the city opposing the zoning change. In a series of public hearings, they made the case that longtime residents purchased their homes with the anticipation of living in a single-family neighborhood.

“You deserve to be spanked,” Ann Shack told members of the City Council during the public hearing. “This massive change in zoning under the guise of affordable housing is a pretext while interest rates are still climbing.”

Supporters and opponents both enunciated support for affordable housing, although they outlined dramatically different strategies. In the end, members of the City Council went with a proposal they say will address the housing demand by expanding the supply of units available, an attempt to use market forces to lower prices. The next step for city leaders will be implementing a plan making it easier for developers to build townhouses and small apartment buildings in neighborhoods that were previously reserved for single-family homes.

“I’ve seen the market in this city destroy my generation. People are not able to stay here. People are not able to live here,” said Councilman John Taylor Chapman. “The market has not been kind to Alexandria’s middle and working class.”

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

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.

ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 13

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ENTERTAINMENT



The 23rd Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights takes place on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023 in Alexandria.



A Taste of Scotland will be held Friday, Dec. 1, 2023 in Alexandria.

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH SATURDAYS

Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence and Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests of all ages are recruited into the Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Recruits are assigned jobs on the ship, learn where they will work and live, how to load a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in the Naval History Theatre with a film about the ship. The Heritage center is a floating museum on the Alexandria waterfront. Visit <https://tallshipprovidence.org/>

FRIDAY/DEC. 1

A Taste of Scotland. 6:30-10:30 p.m. At The Atrium Building, 277 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. 6:30 - 8 p.m. is VIP Patron Hour, returning for the first time since 2019. It will offer top-quality Scotch and special, delectably paired cuisine exclusively for Sponsors and Host Committee Members. 8 p.m. is when General Admission tickets grant you entry and access to high-quality Scotch and delicious food. Attending means that not only are you a part of this beloved holiday tradition, but that you are supporting Campaigna Center's core mission and programs that provide educational services to over 2,000 children and families in our community.

DEC. 1-3, DEC. 8-10, DEC. 15-17

Del Ray Artisans 28th Annual Holiday Market. At 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and much more! Free admission. First three weekends in December (Dec. 1-3, Dec. 8-10, Dec. 15-17), plus bonus market days Dec. 22 & 23. Different artists each weekend! Open Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Hours for Friday, December 22 are 3-9 p.m. Details: delrayartisans.org/holiday-market

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

23rd Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. 5:30 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1A Prince

Street, Alexandria. More than 50 brightly lit boats cruise along one mile of the Potomac River shoreline from Canal Center to Ford's Landing Park. Head to Waterfront Park at the foot of King Street for festivities from 1 to 8 p.m. including a pop-up beer garden from Alexandria's Port City Brewing Company with hard cider from Alexandria's Lost Boy Cider. Also at Waterfront Park, from 1 to 5:30 p.m. enjoy hands-on activities from independently owned Alexandria businesses. Head to Canal Center on the Old Town North waterfront from 3 to 9 p.m. for the Canal Center Holiday Art Mart to enjoy family friendly festivities and watch the start of the Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights on the terrace with parade assembly anticipated between 5 and 5:30 p.m. At 3:30 p.m., Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive by fireboat at the Alexandria City Marina before attending the annual Holiday Festival at Torpedo Factory Art Center, which takes place from 12 to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

52nd Annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade. 11 a.m. In Old Town Alexandria. Dozens of Scottish clans dressed in colorful tartans parade through the streets of Old Town, joined by pipe and drum bands, as well as terriers and hounds, community groups and more. Alexandria was founded in 1749 by Scottish merchants and was named after Scotsman John Alexander who owned the land that became Alexandria. Today, the city continues celebrating its heritage with the iconic parade. This year's Grand Marshals are Congressman Don Beyer and Director of the Office of Art in Embassies at the U.S. Department of State Megan Beyer. The 2023 Master of Ceremonies is Ian Houston, an international non-profit leader in the Washington, D.C. area who is dedicated to promoting cultural links between Scotland and the U.S. For more details on the parade route, transportation alternatives and weekend happenings, visit ALXScottishWalk.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Tall Ship Holiday Boat Parade of Lights Viewing Party. 5-7 p.m. Guests are invited to experience



The 52nd Annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023 in Alexandria.

exclusive access to view Alexandria's Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. Guests can choose between two unique experiences: VIP Ticket (aboard Providence) \$85, includes glass of champagne upon boarding, onboard bar and food, TSP gift or General Admission Ticket (on dock) \$65, includes food and bar. Tickets at www.tallshipprovidence.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Classical Christmas Concert. 2 p.m. Featuring Barclay Brass and Adriano Spampinato. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria. The hour-long program will feature familiar carols, Classical masterpieces, and a few surprises, designed perfectly for families with young children, and the young-at-heart. Tickets are available through EventBrite. \$10 for individuals, capped at \$25 for a family of four. For more information: Lisa Eskew (703) 298-3901 or www.Stpaulsal-alexandria.com

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

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>.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

"Breakfast with Santa" will take place every weekend in December, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in three locations in Alexandria: Joe Theismann's Restaurant Mia's Italian Kitchen Ada's on the River Tickets range from \$0-\$65 and include a hearty and festive breakfast feast that will delight your taste buds. Children will receive take-home treats to continue the holiday spirit at home, while adults can indulge

in some celebratory Prosecco. Tickets can be purchased here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/breakfast-with-santa-in-old-town-alexandria-by-arp-1039279>

DEC. 8-9

Holiday Pops Concert. Friday and Saturday from 7:30-9:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. At Washington Street United Methodist Church, 109 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. Share your spirit for the season. In lieu of a physical gift drive, online donations can be added at ticketing checkout for Alexandria's Carpenter's Shelter. Visit www.Alexandriasingers.com.

DEC. 16-17

"Holiday with a Twist." Featuring the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Saturday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Center, Alexandria; Sunday, Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, Alexandria. Celebrate the Season "Holiday with a Twist" featuring Joshua Banbury, Baritone and Chris Ullman, whistler. Adults: \$20-89; Students \$15; Youth \$5.

SUNDAY/DEC. 17

Sunday Funday. 3 p.m. At Ainslie Arts Center at Episcopal High School, Black Box Theatre, 3900 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Sunday Funday will feature a cast of local musical theater talent and singing drag queens, a three-piece band music directed by Marika Countouris, as well as bottomless drinks. Sunday Funday will be hosted by local drag queen and frequent Monumental collaborator Tiara Missou, also known as David Singleton. Individual tickets are \$30. Artist under 35 tickets are available for \$15 (patrons must show I.D. at the door). A table for four guests can be purchased for \$140. Table tickets include preferred seating and either a bottle of wine or champagne. Patrons may pay \$20 for bottomless specialty drinks or \$25 at the door. Tickets are available online at <https://www.monumentaltheatre.org/>.

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 8

Health Department to Host Community-Wide World AIDS Day

Alexandria Health Department will hold World AIDS Day Exhibit and Commemoration on Friday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Redella S. "Del" Pepper Community Resource Center. The event is free for all to attend.

The event will feature artwork submitted by local individuals and organizations commemorating those who have been affected by AIDS. Attendees can view the art pieces and discuss ongoing efforts to prevent HIV and AIDS in Alexandria.

Light refreshments will be provided.

At 4:30 p.m., Mayor Justin Wilson will join attendees to give a proclamation on World AIDS Day.

The event will also include free, confidential HIV testing conducted by Neighborhood Health. To learn more about HIV and AIDS in the City of Alexandria, and how you can help prevent infection in our community, visit AHD's HIV Testing webpage.

View full event details on the City calendar and learn about transportation and parking on the Del Pepper Community Resource Center's webpage.

Open House on Duke Street Service Roads and West Taylor Run Projects

On Thursday, Dec. 7, the City will host an in-person open house on proposed safety improvements to West Taylor Run Parkway. This public meeting will take place from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road.

During the meeting, staff will give a brief presentation on updated options for the service road and right-turn lane improvements that are part of the West Taylor Run Parkway and Duke Street intersection project. Following the presentation, staff will be available to answer questions and provide additional information about each option.

Staff will also share information about the Cambridge Road and Duke Street intersection and the service road between Cambridge Road and West Taylor Run Parkway at this meeting.

The West Taylor Run project is focused on enhancing safety and access for people who walk, drive, bike, and take transit through the intersection of West Taylor Run Parkway and Duke Street. The project scope also includes providing new access onto Telegraph Road east of the West Taylor Run intersection.

To learn more about the project, including additional details on the service road and right-turn lane options, visit the Duke Street and West Taylor Run Project web page.

Flood Mitigation Grants Open to All Property Owners

The Flood Mitigation Grant Program is now open to

all property owners because the city removed the requirement to show past flooding. The grant program was also updated to increase the maximum amount of the 50/50 matching funding for eligible flood mitigation measures on association common areas up to \$25,000.

Since its inception in August 2021, the Grant program has had more than 250 applications approved and more than \$770,000 granted to property owners. Over the past year, program leaders have noticed a drop in participation. Staff believe this is partly due to the properties with past flooding having likely already applied for and received grant funding. Therefore, the requirement to document past flooding was removed to allow for proactive mitigation measures for properties that are at risk of flooding.

The maximum matching grant for association common areas has also increased from \$5,000 to \$25,000. This update came after City staff received direction from the Ad Hoc Advisory Group to explore ways to provide an increased maximum matching amount for flood mitigation efforts installed in association common areas.

Individual condominium owners may still apply for up to \$5,000 of matching grant funding for their units.

The program offers 50% reimbursement of the completed project costs, up to \$5,000, for implementing eligible floodproofing measures on their property following staff review. Floodproofing and mitigation techniques provide a quick, short-term mitigation effort to protect properties while larger capital projects are considered. The grant will be similar to the City's backflow preventer grant program.

Alexandria Archaeology Launches Report Finder

Alexandria Archaeology Report Finder (AARF) is a new online interactive map that allows residents and researchers to search by location. You can explore the numerous archaeological and historical studies conducted throughout the City of Alexandria over the past 60+ years. The City already offers the Alexandria Archaeology Bibliography of documentary and archaeological reports.

This new tool presents the projects in an easy-to-use, interactive map of the city that shows the locations of various historical and archaeological research projects.

"There is so much history beneath our feet in Alexandria and this archaeology report finder tool provides a platform to continue to add to the database of history. So many questions remain to be explored about people in the past and the reports presented here will help guide the way," says Dr. Eleanor Breen, City Archaeologist.

The most recent report uploaded into the AARF and included in the online bibliography is, "Managing Alexandria's Derelict Merchant Fleet." This report, produced by Alexandria Archaeology, summarizes and contextualizes the work undertaken on four historic ships unearthed along the city's waterfront, primarily focusing on the period after their excavation through to their preservation.

This report, and nearly 400 others, can be accessed through the new AARF.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 11

Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org. 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. 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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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Obituary

Obituary



Edith Carolyn Lund, 81, took her last breaths October 29, 2022, as her family sang "Shepherd Me, O God" and "Be Not Afraid." She was a loving sister, friend, mother, and grandmother but a ruthless competitor in Scrabble and the frenzied card game spit.

Born on New Year's Day in Boston in 1941 to Juliet Litman Lund and Dr. Herbert Z. Lund Jr., Edith grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, until 1952, when the family moved to Greensboro, North Carolina. She earned a BA in Spanish at the University of Colorado at Boulder. In 1963, she lived with family friends in Rosario, Argentina, improving her Spanish so much that within the six months of her stay, Argentines were taking her for one of their own.

Settling in the DC area in 1967, she worked at the Library of Congress before she stayed home with her children. She later worked at the General Services Administration, the US Navy, and the US Geological Survey, and retired after 30 years of federal service.

Edith was a gifted artist, using pens and colored pencils to breathe life into visions from her astonishing imagination, from partying cartoon people to a mind-bending doodle to a gentle forest scene. She read widely, demonstrated for humanitarian causes, and walked every day outdoors. She sang alto in choirs and played classical and ragtime piano. When she heard a good beat, she'd jump up to dance the Charleston. She had the best goofy faces, contorting her mouth diagonally in one direction, then the other, while separately waggling each eyebrow and crossing and uncrossing each eye. She made life a happy discovery.

She was survived by her children: Hannah (Gary) Taylor, Zachary (Sarah) Conron, and Erin (Chas) Lum; grandsons Sam Taylor and Parker Lum; siblings John Lund, Tooky (Howard) Schuyler, and Larry (Nancy) Lund; and her close-knit extended family. Donations in Edith's honor can be made to Penn Frontotemporal Degeneration Center Gift Fund at <https://giving.aws.cloud.upenn.edu/>.

Obituary

Obituary



Charles William Linderman, (Chuck) age 76 passed away peacefully at home on November 4, 2023 after a 20 year battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was born on April 6, 1947 (Easter Sunday) in Seattle, WA to parents Wanda Taylor Linderman and Cleon Linderman. He lived with his family in Centralia, WA, graduating from Centralia High School. He attended Willamette University, in Salem, OR graduating in 1969 and joining the Army after graduation. He served 2 years in the Army stationed in Germany. After an honorable discharge he moved to Washington, DC to attend The George Washington University graduate school receiving an MPA.

He subsequently embarked on a long career in energy policy with a focus on renewable energy, first at the Slurry Transport Association, and then spent 28 years at the Edison Electric Institute. He advocated tirelessly for renewable energy, and attended the 1997 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which led to the signing of the Kyoto Protocol. He met his wife, Wilma Hazen, in 1978. They married and settled in the Taylor Run neighborhood of Alexandria, VA, after surviving the crash of United flight 173 in Portland, OR on their honeymoon. Chuck and his family were involved members of the Alexandria community. Chuck was elected in 1994 to the first elected School Board in the City's history, serving 3 years, including a stint as the board's Vice Chairman.

He was very involved in his children's youth sporting events, coaching soccer, and attending football, basketball, and rowing events. His booming voice with his "Let's go Titans!" cheer became famous among the high school athletes competing. Following his children's example, he rowed with Alexandria Community Rowing, and in later years with the Capital Adaptive rowing program, competing as long as his body allowed.

Chuck was a devout member of the First Church of Christ Scientist, also known as the Mother Church in Boston, MA and the branch church, the First Church of Christ Scientist in Washington, DC. He served the branch church in many capacities, including serving as First Reader for a 3 year term.

Chuck was preceded in death by his parents; Brothers: Walter and Robert Linderman; Sisters-in-Law: Kathy T. Linderman; and Kathy S. Linderman; Brother-in-Law: Melvin Schremmer. Survived by wife of 45 years, Wilma Hazen; Children: William Linderman (Lisa); Corinne Linderman (Jerrold); Grandchildren: Lexie, Sophia and Hazen. Brother-in-law: Alton Hazen (Beth); Sisters-in-law: Anna Schremmer; and Linda Linderman; Nieces and nephews.

Chuck and Wilma moved to St. Anthony, MN in 2022, residing in The Legacy of St. Anthony Assisted Living. Thanks to the many wonderful caregivers for their understanding, compassion, and professionalism, to whom we are very grateful.

A Memorial Tribute will be held on January 20, 2024 at 2:00pm at The George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr. Alexandria, VA 22301.

In lieu of flowers, we suggest donations to the Capital Adaptive Rowing Program (CARP) or the Parkinson's Foundation of the National Park Area. capital-rowing-club-inc.networkforgood.com/projects/211589 <https://parkinsonfoundation.org>

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Obituary

Harold Dean Murray, Sr., age 92, passed away on Thursday, November 23, 2023. Harold was born to William Henry Murray and Bertha Pearl (Harrison) Murray on February 8, 1931 in West Virginia. He graduated from Vanderbilt University with a degree in Electronics Engineering.

Harold was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather and great grandfather. He was active in his church and community, traveling many times to Africa, Europe, Asia, and South America on mission trips. He loved the Lord and was passionate about sharing his faith with others. He served three years in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. As a civil servant, he worked for the Naval Research Laboratory, Naval Air Systems, and Naval Electronic Systems for twenty-eight years. He was an Acquisition Manager for radio communication gear and a Project Manager for radio systems of many Navy ships. The Aegis Cruiser was the last project he worked on before retirement in 1989. After this he continued to work on similar projects for Chu Associates. Harold had hobbies that kept him busy including selling real estate, camp counseling, string quartet task master, stamp collecting, and working for Joe Alexander on several city advisory boards including one housing board that named a subdivision "MurrayGate" in his honor.

Harold is survived by sons and their wives Dean (Heidi), Jack (Barb), Phil (Ruth), and Bill (Sherr); grandchildren Clayton (Shawane), Michael, Nathan, Morgan (Mitch Hanson), Stephen (Megan), Joshua, Lauren, Josh (Payton) Hoffmann; and great-grandchildren Darwin, Luna, Hugo Hoffman, Madelyn and Margaret Hanson. He will truly be missed.

Relatives and friends may call at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315 on Thursday, November 30, 2023, from 2:00PM - 4:00PM and 6:00PM - 8:00PM. A funeral service will be held on Friday, December 1, 2023, at 1:00PM at Jefferson Funeral Chapel. Interment will take place directly after the funeral service at Mt. Comfort Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Samaritan's Purse in lieu of flowers. Please view and sign the family guestbook at www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com.

Obituary

Alfred Randall Prescott

Alfred Randall "Randy" Prescott passed away on November 17, 2023, in Alexandria, Virginia, at 73 years of age. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Diane Prescott; his children Tracy Egelin, Jenny Prescott, Teddy Prescott, Christie Prescott, and Katie Poling; his grandchildren Ethan and Liam; his sister Terry Prescott Collings; and his dog Josie. He is preceded in death by his parents, Alfred Clayton Prescott and Doris Mills Prescott, and his sister Carole Prescott Smith.

Randy was born on April 19, 1950, in Burbank, California. He was an avid sailor, kayaker, guitarist, classic rock aficionado, and volunteer for his church and the community. He spent 25 years as a software engineer for Boeing. His greatest pride and joy was his family. John 11:25-26.

Be a part of our:

Wellbeing pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Senior Living, fourth week of every month.

Questions?

E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431



Employment

Employment



ACPS Transportation Careers Open House

**Friday, December 8th
 10am-12pm**

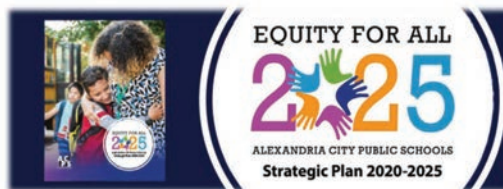
**Pupil Transportation and Fleet Management Office
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Participants will have the opportunity to:
Interview with ACPS staff

Learn about ACPS employment opportunities
Meet members of the Transportation and Fleet Management Team

Preregistration is strongly encouraged, and required to schedule an interview on-site. You may register on our website at www.acps.k12.va.us or here: <https://forms.gle/mj4RqTeNsDnhCFD98>

Questions? Contact the ACPS Recruitment Team at hr@acps.k12.va.us



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Let us know about an upcoming event

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 12

SUNDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria is BACK this year with activities in Old Town from 2 p.m. until midnight on Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023. <https://www.firstnightalexandria.org/>

JAN. 5-27

“Visions of Resilience: Art for Climate Justice” exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, in partnership with the Changing Planet Justice Foundation, raises awareness about climate change and its impact on marginalized communities. By conveying issues through the universal language of image, we encourage action towards a just, climate-friendly future. Reception: Friday, January 5, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and

Sundays 12-6 p.m. (closed January 28). Del-RayArtisans.org/exhibits

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.

NOVEMBER

Wed. 29: Three Dog Night \$85.00 SOLD OUT!

Thu. 30: A Peter White Christmas with Mindi

Abair & Vincent Ingala \$59.50

DECEMBER

Fri. 1: Scott Bradlee’s Postmodern Jukebox “Life In The Past Lane Tour” \$89.50 SOLD OUT!

Sat. 2: Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes \$59.50

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 13

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.

Mentors Wanted. Two creative programs that help transform the lives of Alexandria’s preteens are seeking volunteer mentors. SOHO, which stands for “Space of Her Own,” and “Space of His Own,” serves vulnerable fifth graders in Alexandria. The programs pair men and women with youth in need of positive adult role models, to help support and guide youth in making healthy choices and succeeding in school and in life. Visit www.spaceofherown.org and www.spaceofhisown.org. For more information on how to become a SOHO mentor, contact Sarah Maroney at sarah.maroney@alexandriava.gov or phone at 703-746-4687.

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

Postpartum Support Virginia sponsors a free, bi-monthly support group for women suffering depression and/or anxiety during pregnancy or in the first year following childbirth. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at Inova Alexandria Hospital, Health Education Center, rooms 1-2, 4320 Seminary Road. Contact co-moderator Susan Doyle at suzdoyle@gmail.com or 571-403-0673.

The Parkinson’s Disease Support Group of Alexandria meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. At the Hollin Hall Senior Center, Room 109, 1500 Shenandoah Road. All Parkinson’s patients and caregivers are welcome.

The Caregiver Support Group is facilitated by the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at the Adult Day Services Center, 1108 Jefferson St., 4-5:30 p.m. Participants are full- or part-time caregivers providing care locally or long distance to a family member or friend. Participants share their experiences, provide support for each other and receive resources to assist them with caregiving. The next Caregiver Support Group meeting is June 7. For more information or to register, contact Jennifer Sarisky at 703-746-9999 or email DAAS@alexandriava.gov.

FACE Center Support Groups provide parents with a space to share their daily parenting frustrations and triumphs while offering new strategies for helping parents to cope, build positive parent-child relationships and best support their children’s learning.

❖ Support Group in English, every Monday,

6-7:30 p.m. at ARHA Main Building, 401 Wythe St.

❖ Support Group in Spanish, every Wednesday, 6-7:30 p.m. at Community Lodgings Brookside Center, 614 Four Mile Road.

Registration not necessary. A light dinner and childcare services provided free. Contact Krishna Leyva at 703-619-8055 or krishna.leyva@acps.k12.va.us for more.

Divorce Workshop for Women. Second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Old Town, 1767 King St. The workshops are designed to provide education on the legal, financial, family and personal issues of divorce in a logical, yet compassionate way. The workshop fee is \$25. Visit www.novasecondsaturday.com for more.

ONGOING

Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program. The City of Alexandria has reinstated its sewer Backflow Preventer (BFP) Assistance Program for homeowners in designated areas that historically experience basement back-ups or flooding. The program reimburses homeowners for up to 50 percent of the cost of installing a BFP device by a licensed plumbing contractor, up to a maximum of \$2,000. The current program period is through Dec. 31, 2019. Alexandria homeowners should call the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-746-4014 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/tes.

Robust Walking. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Free 55+ robust walking 1-hour exercise class (with chair exercise option). No class on holidays. Contact jjkingeconsulting@yahoo.com.

Seeking Donations. Computer CORE, which is dedicated to helping low-income adults become computer literate is seeking donations. Visit www.computercore.org/contribute.

Senior and Job Programs. 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Queen of Apostles Church, 4650 Taney Avenue, Alexandria. St. Martin de Porres Center offers senior and job placement programming Monday through Friday at the parish. Email Kathryn Toohey, ktoohy@ccda.net.

Be Heard at the City’s Monthly Public Hearings. A schedule of the meetings can be found at www.alexandriava.gov. Voice opinions, speak about something on the docket or just speak about something you are concerned about. Sign up in advance to speak through the city’s website. Anyone is welcome at any of the public hearings.

Digital Magazines. Patrons of Alexandria Library will have unlimited access to read digital magazines, which can be viewed on most Internet-enabled devices inside or outside of the library. Accessible through www.rbdigital.com/alexandriava/zinio.

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We Need Your Help Again

We are sincerely grateful and thankful to you for helping in 2021 to save one of America's oldest newspapers, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, publishing continuously since 1784



And affiliated newspapers:
THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online
Mount Vernon Gazette
Potomac Almanac
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 hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper-local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

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

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

Visit connectionnewspapers.com or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

Connection Newspapers—Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette, Centre View, Potomac Almanac
1606 King Street • Alexandria, VA • 703-778-9431

Uncertainty



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that you regular readers know when I write these columns, relative to when they publish; but suffice to say, given the publishing/ go-to-press schedules of newspapers, these columns must be written/submitted in adherence to those schedules/publication dates. As such, some columns, depending on subject matter of course, are written before the outcome of whatever cancer-related circumstance is top of mind at the time – for me; and then published after I know said outcome. This column is one of those and is always difficult because the dominant feeling I have – which contribute most to the subject matter of these columns, is basically I don't know. Moreover, the associated difficulty I have is knowing that by the time you read this column, I'll know what I didn't know before it subsequently publishes/you read it. And since I like to share everything with you in as real a time is as possible; the timing of this column means I'm not able to do that.

In a round-about way this column is about the diagnostic scan, a PET scan, I'll be having on Mon., Nov. 27th, the results of which I'll likely know by Wed., Nov. 29th-ish, the day this column publishes and days to late to modify is pre-publication content. By the time you read this, all the anxiety, conjecture, et cetera, will have passed, and the interpretation of the scan will be known, and then the fun begins, hopefully. Presuming I can gather my thoughts together about that interpretation – which will determine the next three-to-four months of cancer treatment, vis-à-vis my life, I will submit a column for Dec. 6, publication date which will address these concerns and update all you interested readers, which I assume after nearly 26 years my column has been published in The Connection, I assume I have a few. It's these kinds of moments when my brother's death rears its ugly head. Not having that backdrop emotionally takes away much of what us patients truly need: support, understanding, encouragement and a positive outlook no matter the results. One doesn't survive a disease of this magnitude without help, and as my biggest booster, Richard was a multi-year backstop-of-the-year award-winner. And when you consider that I originally was given a “13 month to two years” prognosis, perhaps you imagine the frequency and type of conversations Richard and I regularly have had over the many years of my ongoing cancer treatment. Every step of the way. And scans, such as these are a very big step, always.

In my view then, this column is nothing about very much ado. The various scans I have throughout the year, as they are for many patients, are when the rubber hits the road and the doctor (an oncologist in my life) can really tell how you're doing health-wise. As my doctor has said: he doesn't need to see me in person, as much as he needs to my scan results. That will tell him what he needs to know about my thyroid cancer/overall health to decide if what happens next is more of the same or God help me, a change for the worse.

Apart from my monthly lab work and quarterly zoom call, this scan will indicate whether my warranty, so to speak, is to be extended and my life will go on relatively unchanged. (I imagine you can all appreciate then the depth and range of emotions we patients feel; before, during and after these high-tech diagnostic scans have been completed and interpreted. It's only a matter of life and death.) Unfortunately, it's difficult to affect the scan. If the results say something unpleasant then the conversation that follows with your doctor and of course your family, will be equally unpleasant. I remember when Team Lourie (Dina, Richard, and myself) attended our “ground zero” meeting with my oncologist when the doctor first told me my diagnosis. Richard was there then. Now he won't be, ever again. Without him around to help absorb some of inevitable fear and anxiety, the experience going forward scares me. Certainly, I've been there and done that. However, from now on, I will be doing it differently. Not alone exactly. But definitely missing my wingman.

Therefore, writing a column of some substance before these potentially life-changing facts are known is challenging. Which means this column says very little about something so big. In effect, I feel as if I'm wasting your time, sort of by telling you nothing about something. I'll try to write the ship and update you accordingly in next week's column. Until then, wish me luck. I need as much of it as you can spare. Enduring this cycle as much as I have over nearly 15 years (upwards of 100 exposures; all types of scans to consider: CT, PET, and bone scan, and yearly MRIs since I was diagnosed), doesn't make this process any easier. Experienced: yes, comfortable: no.

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

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