



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Senior Services of Alexandria honored community leaders at its 2024 gala held March 16 at the Westin Hotel Old Town. Pictured are honoree Donnie Wintemute; Douglas Buttner, senior executive director of presenting sponsor Benchmark at Alexandria; honorees Brenda and Lucky Elliott; SSA board chair Christopher Wright; and honoree Debra Collins.

Community Leadership honoree Debra Collins, center, with Safiyya Qadir, Kelly Collins, Saara Collins, and Carolyn Collins at the March 16 SSA Gala.

The Deal Is Dead

By MARY KIMM
GAZETTE PACKET

On Wednesday afternoon, March 27, with Ted Leonis and D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser announcing a deal that would keep the Washington Capitals and Washington Wizards in D.C., and Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin conceding defeat, the deal to create a sports arena and entertainment district in Potomac Yard is dead.

The announcements came just after Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson said that the City of Alexandria had ended negotiations related to the Potomac Yard Entertainment District opportunity and that the proposal would not move forward.

"We trusted this process and are disappointed in what occurred between the Governor and General Assembly," Wilson said.

Youngkin said: "A one-of-a-kind project bringing world-class athletes and entertainment, creating 30,000 jobs and \$12 billion in economic activity just went up in smoke."

The metrics and assumptions raised by Youngkin as he kissed the project goodbye were met by many with skepticism throughout the process.

The idea that the arena could create 30,000 jobs was not backed up by data. Calculations and assumptions employed were kept secret.

"This is ludicrous," Heywood Sanders, a professor of public policy at the University of Texas San Antonio told Gazette Packet reporter Michael Pope. "It's simply not plausible."

An area of economics that has examined the return on public financing of professional sports facilities has concluded it rarely if ever pays off.

Neil deMause, co-author of the book "Field of Schemes," points to decades of research he says show these kinds of deals are bad for taxpayers. Team owners rake in profits, he said, and some businesses stand to benefit. But, he says, in example after example the rich get richer while the public gets fleeced. "I guess it's possible that Alexandria [would] be different from all of the other hundreds of times this has happened since the 1980s," deMause told Pope in an interview

SEE POTOMAC YARD, PAGE 7

SSA Gala Celebrates 56 Years

Collins, Wintemute and Elliotts honored for service.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

A veritable who's who filled the ballroom at the Westin Hotel Old Town March 16 to celebrate 56 years of Senior Services of Alex-

andria and to recognize honorees who have gone above and beyond in serving the community.

"This year's gala was bigger and better than ever," said SSA executive director Mary Lee Anderson. "More than 350 people came out to support SSA's programs and celebrate

the great work of our honorees."

This year's honorees included former Deputy City Manager Debra Collins who was recognized with the Community Leadership award; Brenda and Lucky Elliott and Donnan "Donnie" Wintemute, each honored

SEE SSA GALA, PAGE 4



Community Service honoree Donnie Wintemute with son Peter, granddaughter Kinsley, daughter-in-law Jenny and grandson Carson at the March 16 SSA Gala.



Community Service honorees Brenda and Lucky Elliott with the Hon. Nolan Dawkins at the March 16 SSA Gala.



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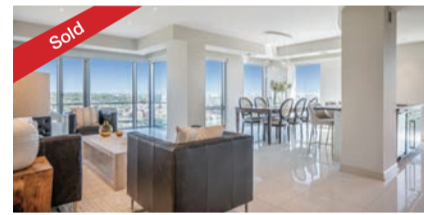
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Essential Workers Appreciation

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

MVCS hosts 3rd annual event.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria City Public Schools and community leaders gathered March 13 at Mount Vernon Community School for the Third Annual Alexandria City Essential Workers Appreciation Week celebration.

The event paid tribute to all essential workers from healthcare staff — including school nurses — to law enforcement officers, firefighters, bus drivers, snowplow drivers, nutrition staff, building engineers, custodians, security personnel, teachers, instructional assistants, counselors and support staff.

“Essential workers in our school division are vital because they make it possible for ACPS to deliver a quality education that is equity-focused for all of our students and allow us to have learning environments that help our students grow and thrive,” said ACPS Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt.

Essential workers from the City of Alexandria and ACPS shared why they love their jobs.

“It’s entertaining to visit the schools once a week,” said Master Deputy Wakeatin Carter of the Alexandria Sheriff’s Office on his role as a middle school liaison. “We greet them during arrival and dismissal, eat lunch with them. I enjoy the community outreach.”

MVCS students staged a special presenta-



Sgt. Cassandra Branch and Master Deputy Wakeatin Carter of the Alexandria Sheriff’s Office March 13 at Mount Vernon Community School.

tion in honor of all essential workers.

“You are essential and extraordinary and an indispensable asset to our schools and community each day!,” added MVCS Principal Jennifer Hamilton in her welcome address.

The week included a social media campaign (#ThxACPSEssentialWorkers) that encouraged community members to participate in honoring essential workers in Alexandria.

Undersheriff Robyn Nichols, Deputy Treyonna Smothers, Deputy Patrick Carty, Deputy Antonio Vilatoro and Sgt. Victor Ignacio at Mount Vernon Community School March 13 for Essential Workers Appreciation Day.



Alexandria Police Department K9 Officers Carlos Roland, Christopher Dannenfeler, Robert Egan and Sgt. Kyle Russell at Mount Vernon Community School March 13 as part of an Essential Workers Appreciation Day.



Clerk of Court West End Service Center Opens

Services available in Del Pepper Community Resource Center.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria’s Clerk of Court Greg Parks hosted a ribbon cutting March 12 to officially open the West End Service Center of the Alexandria Clerk of Circuit Court in the Redella S. “Del” Pepper Community Resource Center.

“I am extremely pleased to be able to open this new branch office in the West End of our city,” Parks said. “It brings critical services to an area where many residents live and work. With free parking at the Del Pepper Center, residents can get what they need from the Clerk’s Office conveniently and quickly without having to go downtown to the Courthouse.”

Located at 4850 Mark Center Drive, the Clerk’s Office West End branch will offer most services available at the Courthouse, including marriage licenses, notary qualifications, concealed handgun permit applications (and free

trigger locks), certified copies of circuit court records, land records research, and payment of court costs and fines. Court case filings cannot be made at the branch office at this time, but that service is expected to be available in the near future.

“I was raised by a mother who was very much committed to public service,” Parks said. “One of the things this office allows me to do is to be of service to the residents of Alexandria. I wanted to open an office where we can provide access to justice to more people within Alexandria.

A lot of people live in West End and this is to provide them services that they can only get from the Clerk’s office. We are bringing our services to the residents.”

The Clerk’s Office West End branch will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays only.

For more information, contact Greg Parks at Greg.Parks@AlexandriaVA.gov



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Clerk of Court Greg Parks, center, cuts the ribbon to officially open the West End Service Center of the Alexandria Clerk of Circuit Court March 12 at the Redella S. “Del” Pepper Community Resource Center. With Parks are Brian Vanfleet, City Council members Sarah Bagley and Canuk Aguirre, and John Knippenberg.



Alexandria Rehabilitation Center's Udy Ekong, Cherrelle Smith and Eva Addo at the March 16 SSA Gala.



SSA honoree Donnie Wintermute, center with Synergy Home Care CEO Mitch Opalski and senior executive director of Benchmark at Alexandria Douglas Buttner.



Kate Garvey, director of Alexandria Human Services, wins two tickets to a Bruce Springsteen concert at Nationals Stadium during the March 16 SSA Gala.

SSA Gala Celebrates 56 Years

FROM PAGE 1

with the Community Service award. The evening highlighted SSA's work in the community through programs such as Meals On Wheels, Groceries-to-Go, Friendly Visitor, Caring Connection and Senior Speaker Series among others.

"We are so fortunate to have such a formidable organization," said SSA board chair Christopher Wright. "The Gala provides a forum for all of our community to come together."

Collins is the former Deputy City Manager who was responsible for the oversight of several crucial city departments, including the Race and Social Equity Officer, the Police and Fire Departments, the Departments of Emergency Communications, Community and Human Services, Human Resources, and Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

Her significant accomplishments include consolidating the Departments of Human Services, Mental Health/Mental Retardation/Substance Abuse and the Office on Women into the Department of Community and Human Services and the reconstitution of the City Schools Staff Group. Collins created the Center for Alexandria's Children (Alexandria's child advocacy center), the Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations, and Spring for Alexandria in partnership with ACT for Alexandria.

Brenda Levere Elliott and Lawrence "Lucky" Elliott both grew up in Alexandria. Lucky is best known as a youth sports coach, activist, and advocate for teens and young adults in the metro area. He coached youth football and basketball for close to 20 years.

Lucky dedicated himself to fighting alcohol abuse among young teens as co-founder of the We Care Organization, a group

"We are so fortunate to have such a formidable organization."
— SSA board chair Christopher Wright

formed to combat alcohol and substance abuse. He continued his work as an advocate as a certified clinician, teaching youth in the Get Away Clean program.

Lucky also formed the Bulldog Connection, which hosted a program called Champions of Equality and Justice. The annual event was held during Black History Month to recognize and honor individuals who made outstanding contributions that improved the quality of life for City residents. Today, he organizes social gatherings of men that meet once a month for lunch. Some of this group of seniors, The Old Dogs, have met for nearly 20 years.

During Brenda's career, she was for a time assigned the position of Loaned Executive to the United Way, where she tackled challenges while working with private, public, and nonprofit partners. A member of the last graduating class of Parker-Gray High School, she was pivotal in obtaining a Historical Street Marker Sign at the site of the school. She has acted as the chairperson for her last three milestone class reunions. Brenda created a Birthday Luncheon three years ago to "widen the net" and capture more seniors. The group meets on the third Saturday of every month to celebrate birthdays of that month, with over 50 seniors on the roster.

Wintermute, a lifelong Alexandrian and graduate of Saint Agnes Episcopal School, received a degree in political science from The College of William and Mary. During her



Jim Zalewski, managing partner at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, left, greets SSA board chair Christopher Wright at the March 16 SSA Gala.

35-year career in real estate, she made over \$1 billion in career sales and was named the Realtor of the Year, the highest honor bestowed by the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors.

Wintermute was named a Living Legend of Alexandria in 2014 and was honored as the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce Business Leader of the Year. She was President of Wintermute, Jackson and Donatelli Realtors (WJD Associates). She sold the 100-agent firm in 1996 to a Washington-based firm, Pardoe and Graham (now Coldwell Banker Realty), where Wintermute is Vice President.

For the last 14 summers, Wintermute has traveled on a mission trip to San Pedro Sula, Honduras, to volunteer in an orphanage for 72 needy young girls. The mission team takes the children clothing, books, games, and health supplies.

"We have such a caring community," Wright said. "We just want to thank everyone who supported the gala and our older adults in our community. Alexandria is a special place."

Kate Garvey, director of Alexandria Human Services, won the coveted raffle prize of a concert package for two to see Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band at Nationals Park in September.

Music for the evening was provided by Bruthers Plus One and Benchmark at Alexandria was presenting sponsor for the event.

Said Benchmark at Alexandria senior executive director Douglas Buttner, "It was truly an honor to be the presenting sponsor for such a remarkable organization and celebrate all they do to impact the lives of our seniors in the Alexandria area."

www.seniorservicesalex.org

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LIVING LEGENDS

The Dynamic Duo

Patty and Kate Moran
making a difference in Del Ray.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Patricia “Patty” Moran and her husband moved to Alexandria from Boston for a year in 1976 and “we never went back.” She says her son was three years old and her daughter Kate was two-months old.

“We moved into my cousin Jim Moran’s house and have been in Del Ray ever since. It’s addictive here; the people are so easy to get along with.”

Moran started teaching preschool every Sunday at Blessed Sacrament and then taught in the nursery for 20 years so she was always around kids. That and the fact that she is the fourth child of 12 siblings in her family. “We always made our own entertainment.”

She coached her son’s basketball team in middle school and some of her daughter’s sports teams but she began her volunteer work in the schools at what was then TC Williams High School in 1988 when her son entered high school. “I helped the principal with things all the time, and I was so involved with all of the activities that they gave me my own key to the building and my own mailbox. I spent all day there; I couldn’t help myself.” It wasn’t until 2006 that they finally gave her a paying job as the administrative assistant to the principal, which is where she is today.

When she wasn’t working at her official job, Moran served as PTSA President, ANGP Co-Chair, Titan Expo Co-Chair, Athletic Boosters Committee, Scholarship Fund. Whenever there is an event in the schools or the community Moran is part of it, “acting as an Indian under the chief.” Every December she takes a week off work to volunteer for the Alexandria Department of Social Services Holiday Sharing Program.

Moran has served as the sponsor of the Key Club for six years, an organization that brings together students to volunteer for school and community events. “We have 180 members and participate in 65 events a year.” Moran says the students provide valuable assistance for these events, and it also gives them a great chance to meet each other with different cultures and nationalities and ages that they wouldn’t otherwise have the chance to know.

Moran says she has seen kids over a long time and doesn’t think kids have changed. “But what has changed is the things around them. In the 80s kids had face-to-face contact and had to converse but now there is social media. The kids are the same but the tools are much more sophisticated.” And of course the clothes are different. “Society is much more accepting.”

Moran and her daughter Kate work on many of the community events together with one of the most important being the Nancy Dunning Memorial Garden Committee. The purpose is to help plan and design a meaningful and peaceful garden in Del Ray dedicated to her sister Nancy Dunning’s memory after Dunning’s murder in 2003. Every year Mount Vernon Avenue is lit with 1,000 luminaries in remembrance, and Kate Emcees



PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA STUDIOS

Patty and Kate Moran were named 2023 Living Legend of Alexandria.

the Holiday Tree Lighting and reminds the community of her aunt’s contributions to Del Ray.

Moran was awarded the coveted annual Del Ray Business Association Award in 2007 for her years of dedicated work in organizing, supporting, volunteering, fundraising and making a difference in Del Ray. She has received many other awards including the Salute to Women Making a Difference Award, the Joan White Grassroots Volunteer Award, Alexandrian of the Year, the Alexandria Red Cross Burke Award and was Grand Marshal for the Annual Turkey Trot.

Moran says she was born a volunteer. “Whenever I see anyone needs help on Facebook, I’m there. I’m a soft touch.”

Kate Moran

Kate Moran couldn’t decide which way to go. Lucky for Del Ray she made the decision she did. Moran grew up in Alexandria and was an active member of the drama department at Alexandria City High School. At the same time she took another elective, called Human Resources, which taught students about basic teaching methods and paired them with students at Jefferson Houston elementary school with special needs. “I helped him with reading and writing. It was a great experience. I learned some of the basics of teaching.” When deciding what to major in after high school, Moran struggled to decide whether she wanted to focus on her love of teaching or the stage.

Moran eventually decided to major in theatre at Catholic University and after graduation headed off to Europe with three friends

from high school, “... to see the world. But when I came back I had to get a real job.” She ended up taking on a teaching assistant position at Naomi L. Brooks Elementary (formerly Maury elementary) in a class for elementary-aged students who qualified for special education services. She then applied and was accepted into an accelerated master’s program at the University of Virginia where she received her Master’s in Special Education from the University of Virginia in 2002.

Moran completed her student teaching practicum in Loudoun County and was later hired for a full-time teaching position upon receiving her masters. Her first teaching position was working with middle school students at Harper Park Middle School in Loudoun County. While in this position Moran developed and implemented a school-wide behavior program for any student who qualified for special education services. Through this program’s development and work, “back when this was fairly new,” the school was able to reduce the suspension rate in half the first year and did not have to send any students to private placements.

After teaching in the classroom for six years, Moran was ready for a new challenge and left Loudoun to work as a special education Coordinator with the Alexandria City Public Schools. Moran worked as a secondary level coordinator for the first few years and then coordinated the K-12 Life Skills program, which supported students with intellectual disabilities. Moran then applied and was accepted for a position at the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), where she re-

mains today. Moran has developed policy letters and guidance and oversees State’s special education programs as an Education Program Specialist and State Lead. While working at the OSEP, Moran completed her dissertation and received a Doctorate in Special Education Leadership from George Mason University in 2014.

In addition to her experience with education, Moran is a well-established singer-songwriter in the DC/MD/VA area. She began a successful local music festival in Del Ray (2007), the Del Ray Music Festival, and performed with her pop band, the Kate Moran Band, in and around the DMV area for years. She released an EP and a single with the Kate Moran Band.

She then started her award-winning Rainbow Rock Band where she performs in the DMV and as far away as New York. Her mother Patty, when available, serves as Pat-tycake Patty in the band.

Moran furthered her dream when she began the Rainbow Rock Collection, “Rockin the Rainbow to kids in need all over the world!” a nonprofit devoted to meeting the needs of children in her neighborhood and beyond. One specific collection, close to her heart, is the Coats for Kids, which partners with the Alexandria Department of Human Services to collect coats for kids in foster care. She founded the Tot Rock Fest in 2015 to support those activities, as well as highlighting children’s music in the DMV music scene.

Moran and her mother co-chair the Nancy Dunning Memorial Garden Committee to create a peaceful garden in her aunt’s memory. “When my aunt was murdered in 2003, I wanted to keep all the things she did going for her legacy. She did the Halloween Parade, volunteered at the Carpenter’s Shelter, and so much in the background to support and help all these events in the community.” At Christmas Kate and Patty help fill the 1,000 luminaries lining the Avenue, put them out and light them in memory of her aunt and Patty’s sister, and Kate has been the host for the Del Ray Holiday Kick-off recounting her aunt’s many accomplishments and leading the families in holiday songs.

Moran along with her mother received a Star Award from the Del Ray Business Association for their years of dedicated work in organizing, supporting, volunteering, fundraising and making a difference in Del Ray. Moran has received the National Parenting Products Award, National Mom’s Choice Gold Award as well as Family’s Choice Gold Award, U.S. Department of Education Peer Recognition Customer Service Award, and has served as a Governor on the Washington D.C. Chapter of the Recording Academy, supporting children’s musicians in the DMV.

Living Legends of Alexandria is a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to identify, honor and chronicle the lives of individuals who have contributed to the community in an exemplary and lasting way that has significantly impacted the quality of life in Alexandria and serves as an inspiration to others. Nominations for the 2024 Legends are open now through May 1. www.alexandrialegends.org

OBITUARY

Stanley Clarke Brinkley, 61, Dies March 24

Stanley Clarke Brinkley, 61, died Sunday, March 24 after a brief illness.

Brinkley was Director of Finance and Operations for the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, and was called “a stalwart member of the Chamber team for over a decade.

“He loved working for the Alexandria Chamber and ensuring that all our financial trains always ran like clockwork,” said a release from the Chamber. “He thoroughly enjoyed interacting with members through our many events.”

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center St, Manassas, VA 20110. A funeral service will be held on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 11 a.m. at the same location.



Stanley Clarke Brinkley.

Potomac Yard Entertainment District

FROM PAGE 1

earlier this month. “But I would not put my money or Virginia taxpayer money on it.” He could not cite any example of a good result for the public.

The proposal also faced significant opposition from Alexandria residents.

Andrew Macdonald, former Vice Mayor who co-founded the opposition group Coalition to Stop the Arena at Potomac Yard, noted earlier that other proposals will come forward. “I think there are other development options that will result in far fewer environmental and quality of life impacts, and create a more sustainable revenue stream,” he said in an earlier interview with Gazette Packet reporter James Libresco. “There needs to be development in Potomac Yard, but a sportsplex is simply not suitable for Alexandria.”

Results from a recent poll of Del Ray, Hume Springs, Lynhaven and Rosemont residents conducted jointly by the neighborhood civic associations which had 496 respondents found that 58 percent oppose the project, 29 percent support it, 12 percent have mixed opinions and less than 1 percent are unsure.

“[Arena proponents] failed to prove this was a good public investment,” said Macdonald. “The city failed to engage the community from the start in a meaningful way, preferring instead to ignore public concerns and hire lobbyists (using our local tax dollars) to push the bill through the General Assembly.”

There’s plenty of blame to go around, but Sen. Scott Surovell, majority leader of the Virginia Senate, says the Governor’s failure to include stakeholders is where the deal went awry.

“The failure of this deal falls squarely on Governor Glenn Youngkin,” said Surovell. “This isn’t a Carlyle deal. The Legislature is a co-equal branch of government, and key members – Republicans and Democrats alike – were not included at every stage of the process. By the time the deal was brought to the table it was essentially non-negotiable, even for myself as the bill’s sponsor.

“The arena proposal failed because the Governor failed to include the stakeholders in state government who would have to deal with the consequences of this decision long after he left office with a photo opp breaking dirt.”

Legals

Legals

NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

This notice is required by State law. The City Council has authorized a proposed real estate tax rate for advertising purposes of \$1.150 per \$100 of assessed value. The tax rate may not exceed \$1.150, it could be less, and it will not be set until May 1, 2024.

The City of Alexandria proposes to increase the current property tax levies.

1. Assessment Decrease: Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments for new construction, or improvement to property, is less than last year’s total assessed value of real property by 0.81 percent.
2. Total assessed value of real property, excluding additional assessments due to new construction or improvements to property, does not exceed last year’s total assessed value of real property by 1 percent. A lowered rate is not required by Virginia Code section 58.1-3321 and 58.1-3330.
3. Tax Rate Increase: The City of Alexandria proposes to advertise a tax rate of \$1.150 per \$100 of assessed value. The difference between the current tax rate and the advertised tax rate would be \$0.040 per \$100 of assessed value, or a 3.60 percent increase. Individual property taxes may, however, increase at a percentage greater than or less than the above percentage.
4. Proposed Total Budget Increase: Based on the proposed real property tax rate and changes in other revenues, the total budget of the City of Alexandria (including the General Fund and all Special Revenue grant funds and other sources) will exceed last year’s by 4.8 percent.
5. The City proposes to continue an additional tax rate of \$0.20 per \$100 for all properties that have been classified in the Tier I Potomac Yard Metrorail Station Special Services District.

A public hearing on the effective increase will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. The hearing shall be open to the public. The governing body shall provide persons desiring to be heard an opportunity to present oral testimony within such reasonable time limits as shall be determined by the governing body.

City Council Public Hearing:

The Webinar will open at 5:00 PM to allow individuals to join while the Public Hearing will begin at approximately 5:30 PM.

The April 24, 2024 Tax Rate Public Hearing Meeting of the Alexandria City Council is being held in the Council Chamber (301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314) and electronically. Members of City Council and staff are participating either in person or from a remote location through a video conference call on Zoom. The meeting can be accessed by the public in the City Council chamber, through the live broadcast on the government channel 70, streaming on the City’s website, and can be accessed via Zoom by the following link:

Registration link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LKMMnK-RGeKLFyyKhJUuW
Webinar ID: 966 2910 8137
Webinar Passcode: 224760
Dial-in number: 301-715-8592

If you use the Zoom webinar application, please be sure you have updated the application to the latest version for best results. If you are unable to access Zoom, please use the Dial-In number to access the meeting. ***PLEASE LOG-IN EARLY IF POSSIBLE. If you wish to use Zoom to watch the meeting or to address Council, you must register first. The meeting will be webcast live and video and audio recordings will be available a few days after the meeting

Speaker’s Form: <https://survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/2020-VIRTUAL-City-Council-Speakers-Form>

Those wishing to address Council should submit a Speaker’s Form. Submission of written statements is encouraged. Please sign up after the docket is created and you are able to verify the meeting date on the City’s website. If the docket is not posted, you will have to return at a later date to complete the speaker’s form in order to speak at a Council meeting.

Public Comment will be received at this meeting: All persons wishing to speak before City Council must complete a Speaker’s Form (see link above). If you have a prepared statement or written comments for the record, you may email it to the City Clerk at gloria.sitton@alexandriava.gov. Speakers are encouraged to submit their written comments to the City Clerk. When your name is called to speak, the Zoom host will prompt you to unmute your microphone. If you are participating via smartphone, press *6 to mute/unmute your microphone. You will be called on by your name or the last 4 digits of your phone number when it is your turn to speak. When you are finished speaking or at 3 minutes (whichever comes first), you will be muted again. If you would like to submit a written comment, you may use the “Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Input” form: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/34d1375e0c-6c41a5a46e093c25650526>

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

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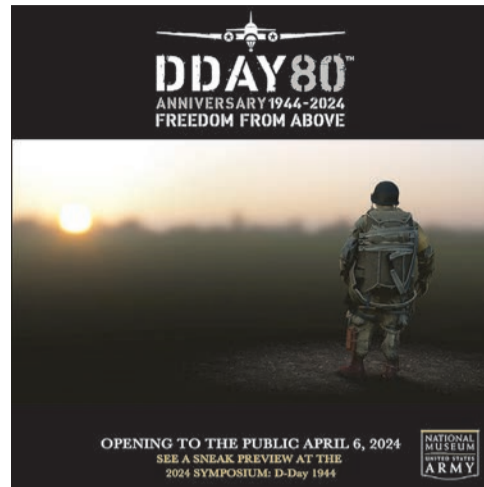
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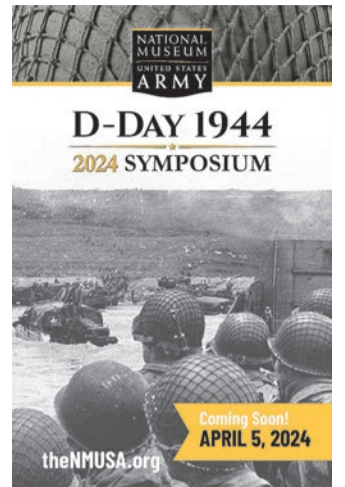
D-Day medals of honor are together for the first time in the exhibit.



80th anniversary of D-Day; exhibit opens April 6 at the National Museum of the U. S. Army.



80th anniversary of D-Day; exhibit opens April 6 at the National Museum of the U. S. Army.



Register for the virtual symposium at bit.ly/DDay2024.

Honoring Courageous Soldiers

Army Museum Commemorates D-Day's 80th Anniversary.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE GAZETTE

If you ever fantasized about parachuting out of an airplane, check out the new D-Day exhibit at the National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir. But if you successfully land, you'll be in a Nazi-occupied country on D-Day in the heat of World War II.

To honor those who participated in the invasion of German-occupied France on June 6, 1944, when the multi-nation Allied Expeditionary Forces landed on Normandy, France's beaches, the museum will stage a D-Day exhibit and host many educational programs from April 6 to mid-November.

D-Day, code-named Operation Overlord, was one of the most complex land, sea and air opera-

tions ever at that time, the largest amphibious invasion in military history.

Historian David Ambrose wrote in his book, *D-Day*, "In one night and day, 175,000 fighting men and their equipment, including 50,000 vehicles of all types, ranging from motorcycles to tanks and armored bulldozers were transported across 60 to 100 miles of open water and landed on a hostile shore against intense opposition. They were either carried by or supported by 5,333 ships and crafts of all types and almost 11,000 airplanes ... It was as if the cities of Green Bay, Racine, and Kenosha Wisconsin, were picked up and moved - every man, woman, and child, every automobile and truck - to the east side of Lake Michigan in one night."

Led by General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander, the military alliance had meticulously planned the unprecedented invasion. The troops

crossed the English channel, secured Normandy's beaches and went on to liberate Paris. Many credit the historic battle with turning the tide against the Nazis, lead-

"I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full victory."

— General Dwight D. Eisenhower

ing to the defeat of the Axis Powers led by German chancellor Adolph Hitler.

For the war, the United States had grown the U.S. Army from 170,000 men in 1940 to 7.2 million by 1944. U.S. factories had doubled their capacity between 1939 and 1944, manufacturing airplanes, boats, ships, tanks and weapons, Ambrose wrote.

Museum Events

At an exhibit titled "D-Day: Freedom from Above," visitors can make airborne landings behind

enemy lines through interactive "HistoPad" technology, virtual simulations, and through the true stories of U.S. Army paratroopers who were loaded with gear. Their backpacks typically carried, for example, a bazooka, a knife, an automatic rifle or a machine gun, grenades, a medical kit and radio equipment.

The invasion and future World War II battles involved 13,000 paratroopers and 4,000 glider infantry men. The paratroopers jumped from airplanes behind enemy lines just after midnight. Their mission was to prepare for the invasion force that would arrive at dawn. Throughout the war, the paratroopers captured roads, created river crossings, blew up bridges, destroyed communications and cut off supplies and reinforcements.

Museum-goers will learn the stories of individual soldiers' landings and actions on the ground after they landed, including efforts of French villagers who provided

food and medical aid to the paratroopers.

The museum will also display four medals of honor awarded to soldiers for actions performed on D-Day, medals never before displayed together.

The museum's Global War Gallery has permanent exhibits including World War II artifacts like a parachutist's steel helmet, an M4 Sherman Cobra King tank, a landing craft called a Higgins Boat, a soldier's pocket Bible and the story of the development of the atomic bomb.

At an April 5 symposium, (with some virtual seats available on March 26) Mitchell A. Yockelson, a former U.S. Naval Academy professor, will describe the paratroopers' airborne operations, from leaping from airplanes to landing.

At the April 5 all-day, free, public symposium, held both in-person and virtually, historians and military experts will discuss the invasion's planning, execution and significance.

Register here: <https://www.thenmusa.org/2024-dday-symposium/>.

The opening weekend will also feature an equipment and parachute-packing demonstration by U.S. Army Aerial Delivery Unit soldiers. In the next few months, the museum will have documentary screenings, hands-on demonstrations, author presentations and history talks. Topics include the WASPs of World War II, tactical intelligence for D-Day and the African American Experience in the war.

Information: www.thenmusa.org/dday80/



The National Museum of the U. S. Army at Fort Belvoir.



A World War II Sherman Cobra King tank on display at the museum permanently. The exhibit on the 80th anniversary of D-Day opens April 6.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

CAPPIES REVIEW



Into the Woods at Bishop Ireton: from left, Catherine Cassidy, Christian Burke and Gabriela Viana

Into the Woods at Bishop Ireton High School

BY ANGELINA MARTINEZ
ALEXANDRIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Get prepared to be transported into a spell-binding fusion of classic fairy tales in Bishop Ireton's showcase of "Into the Woods." "Into the Woods" is a musical with lyrics and music by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapine. It premiered on Broadway at the Martin Beck Theatre on Nov. 5, 1987, directed by Lapine. The musical weaves together various well-known fairy tale characters, including Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (of the beanstalk), and Rapunzel, among others, into a single narrative. Set in a magical forest, the characters' stories intertwine as they pursue their individual wishes and encounter unexpected challenges along the way.

From the moment the curtain opened, the audience was immediately transported into the whimsical fantasy world of storybooks and magic. At the heart of this tale, The Baker (Donovan Furey) and The Baker's Wife (Lauren Allen) were tasked to delve into the heart of the woods and find the items tasked to lift their curse. Allen and Furey cohesively worked together throughout the show to demonstrate the highs and lows of their marriage as they navigated the entanglement of the other storybook characters.

At the helm of this production was the spectacular

Elina Viana portraying The Witch. Viana captured the heart of the audience with her magnetic energy and superb vocals adding depth to the classic wickedness of the Witch. From the "Witch's Lament" to the show stopping "Last Midnight," Viana perfectly navigated through each song with clarity and an astounding tone, exploring the complexities of the character as an actor and a vocalist.

The whimsical fantasy feel of the show could not have been possible without the addition of the colorful fictional set produced by Joseph Murray, Charlotte Rayder, Caroline Reams, and Sarah Petz. From the colorful storybook bridge to the glittery wishing tree in center stage, the audience could immediately tell they were no longer in the theater but rather in the nostalgic fairytale characters' setting.

In addition to the stunning set design, the magic of the set would not have been possible without the addition of the special effects executed by Anna Wisneski and Cherri Hansford. From the numerous hidden fog machines to the incorporation of hidden dry ice, each addition gave enchantment throughout the entirety of the show, not allowing the audience to take their eyes off the stage for a moment.

With this unforgettable performance, breathtaking visuals, and timeless themes, Bishop Ireton's production of Into the Woods leaves an indelible mark on the hearts of all who journey into the woods.

Agatha Christie's

MURDER

on the

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF TRI POINTE HOMES

This light-filled kitchen has clean lines and soothing colors characterize some of the spaces, which designer Bobby Berk says can have a positive affect on mental and physical health.

Two New Alexandria Communities

Celebrity Designer Bobby Berk signs books, lends insight to interiors.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Interior designer and Emmy award-winning TV host, Bobby Berk was in Alexandria for a book signing and reception to celebrate two new townhome communities which he helped design.

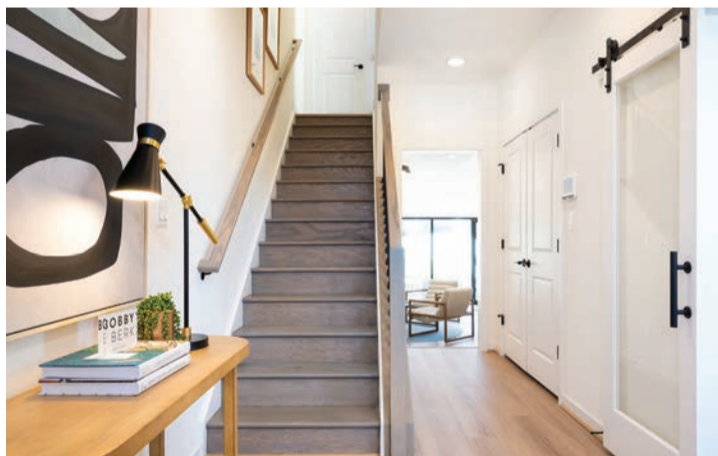
The former star of Netflix collaborated with Tri Pointe Homes, Inc.

to create Eisenhower Point located in Alexandria's West End neighborhood and Del Ray Corner at Oakville in Del Ray. His new book, "Right At Home: How Good Design Is Good For The Mind," contains photos of Tri Pointe homes.

"I wanted to write a book that inspired people to find their own aesthetic, not just mine," Berk said. "I also wanted to encourage people to design their homes with their mental health in mind and focus on what makes them happy."

The 55 guests who attended the reception received not only a copy of Berk's book, but also got a sneak peek of two models of Eisenhower Pointe.

"[We] wanted to create brand new neighborhoods of luxury townhomes in Alexan-



Berk described the townhomes at Eisenhower Pointe as "Super wide which allows you to decorate as if it were a single-family detached home."

dria that are uniquely charming homes that feel custom created just for our homebuyers with livability in mind," said Gabriela Isip, marketing manager at Tri Pointe Homes DC Metro Division.

Berk credits Tri Pointe's business model with interior design success of the homes.

"They bring us in at the beginning phases when we can work with the architects," Berk said. "Often townhomes can be quite narrow which makes it difficult to design — not just for me as a designer but for homeowners as well."

Berk described the townhomes

at Eisenhower Pointe as "super wide which allows you to decorate as if it were a single-family detached home."

During the reception, Burke shared some of his design ideas.

"I like to democratize design. I like to show people that you don't have to have a multi-million-dollar budget to live in a great space that feeds your soul. Your home is like your phone charger. It should be charging you up. If you're not filling it with things that make you happy, you are not getting charged up."

Information for Candidates for Local Elected Office in Alexandria

The City of Alexandria is providing information for candidates interested in running for local elected offices.

On Nov. 5, Alexandria voters will elect a Mayor, all six members of City Council; and all members of the Alexandria School Board. The ballot will also include President and Vice President, U.S. Senate, and U.S. House of Representatives.

The process for getting on the November ballot varies based on the specific office and political party affiliation, with some filing deadlines as early as April 4.

The Virginia Department of Elections website includes candidate bulletins and required filing forms. Candidates may also pick up a packet of forms at the Alexandria Voter Registration Office. A summary of filing information follows.

POLITICAL PARTY CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Candidates in primary elections must file the appropriate paperwork:

A candidate in a primary election must pay a filing fee to the City Treasurer equaling 2% of the salary of the office sought (\$750 for Council, \$830 for Mayor) by 5 p.m. on April 4.

Declaration of Candidacy, Candidate petitions (with 125 signatures of qualified Alexandria voters) and primary filing fee receipt, must be filed with the local Party Chair between noon on March 18, and 5 p.m. on April 4.

Certificate of Candidate Qualification and Statement of Economic Interests, which must be filed with the Alexandria Voter Registration Office by 5 p.m. on April 4.

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Alexandrians who wish to run for Mayor or City Council as an independent candidate must file the following paperwork with the Alexandria Voter Registration Office by 7 p.m. on June 18. There is no filing fee.

Declaration of Candidacy

Candidate Petitions (with 125 signatures of qualified Alexandria voters)

Certificate of Candidate Qualification

Statement of Economic Interests

CANDIDATES FOR SCHOOL BOARD

School Board elections in Alexandria are nonpartisan. All candidates run as independents by district and must file the following paperwork with the Alexandria Voter Registration Office by 7 p.m. on June 18. There is no filing fee.

Declaration of Candidacy

Candidate Petitions (with 125 signatures of qualified voters from their district)

Certificate of Candidate Qualification

Statement of Economic Interests

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Any individual campaigning for Mayor, City Council, or School Board, must also file regular campaign finance reports and a Statement of Organization. The Statement of Organization must be submitted to the Alexandria Voter Registration Office within 10 days of meeting any one of the following conditions:

Acceptance of a contribution

Expenditure of any funds

The payment of a primary filing fee

The filing of a candidate statement of qualification

The appointment of a campaign treasurer, designation of a campaign committee, or designation of a campaign depository.

The Alexandria Voter Registration Office posts new Statements of Organization as soon as they are received.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Angie Maniglia Turner, General Registrar,
voters@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.4050
Alexandria Democratic Committee,
office@alexdem.org or 703.549.3367
Alexandria Republican City Committee,
info@alexgop.org or 571.281.7042

Visit the following sites:

Alexandria Office of Voter Registration and Elections

Virginia Department of Elections for local candidate bulletins and required filing forms.

Alloy Personal Training Opens in Old Town

Long-time Alexandria resident Russ Merbeth hosted the Grand Opening of Virginia's first Alloy Personal Training studio in Old Town Alexandria, along with Alexandria Vice Mayor Amy Jackson and the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. Alloy - Old Town is located at 1070 N. Fayette St, near the Braddock Road metro.

"We cater to people of all fitness levels," said Alloy Personal Training studio owner Merbeth. "We know that people do better with personal coaching, encouragement, support, and accountability. Our clients want to look good, feel great, and live life to the fullest."

Alloy is offering a "First-Session-Is-On-Us" special. Clients will meet with one of Alloy's certified personal trainers who will learn about their health and fitness history and design a program specifically tailored to them and their fitness goals and abilities. Every month each client will get a detailed assessment of their progress. Visit Alloy -- Old Town's website or call 703 686-8404. <https://alloypersonaltraining.com/location/old-town-va/>



L-R: Amy Jackson, Alexandria Vice Mayor; Russ Merbeth, Owner, Alloy Personal Training - Old Town Alexandria; Joey Haggerty, President & CEO, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce; Tony Curry-Fisher, Director of Membership, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.



L-R: Stephan Bolding, Head Coach, Alloy Personal Training - Old Town Alexandria; Russ Merbeth, Owner, Alloy Personal Training - Old Town Alexandria; Abby Francis, Fitness Director, Alloy Personal Training - Old Town Alexandria.

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ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU APRIL 15

Exhibit: "Searching for Truth in the Garden" at Freedom House Museum. At Freedom House Museum, 1315 Duke Street, Alexandria. Gonzaga High School's groundbreaking research on slavery, "Searching for Truth in the Garden," found new life at the Freedom House Museum. The traveling exhibition, on view through April 15, 2024, delves into the life of Gabriel, a teenager enslaved at Washington Seminary (now Gonzaga) in 1829. Gabriel's story offers a poignant lens through which to examine the complexities of slavery and its lasting impact.

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/>

NOW THRU APRIL 7

Seen Better Times Exhibition. At Multiple Exposures Gallery, The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union Street, Studio 312, Alexandria. MEG is pleased to announce Seen Better Times, a new fine art photography exhibition juried by Michael Borek. The exhibition features 24 images that depict scenes that have "seen better days." Juror Michael Borek says the images he chose from the 14 included photographers go behind the surface of obvious decay and "invite viewers to use their imaginations to finish the hint of a story that is sketched out, but unfinished." Exhibition Artists: Soomin Ham, Eric Johnson, Irina Lawton, Sandy LeBrun-Evans, Matt Leedham, Francine B. Livaditis, Maureen Minehan, David Myers, Van Pulley, Sarah Hood Salomon, Alan Sislen, Tom Sliter and Fred Zafran.

MARCH 1-30

March Luck. At Van Landingham Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria. March Luck explores the serendipitous forces that drive artistic expression. Join us to reflect on the role of luck in shaping both art and life in the Van Landingham Gallery. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association presents a group exhibition including jewelry, paintings, photography, mixed media work, hand pulled prints, and more during the month of March.

MARCH 1-31

Woodlawn Needlework Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Woodlawn Plantation. Every Wednesday and Friday at 2:30pm in March - Special Tours of 61st Anniversary Woodlawn Needlework Show (Fee: \$18, includes Needlework Show Admission) Join the special tour for a brief history of Woodlawn while discovering the unique stories behind many

pieces of the Needlework Show as a Woodlawn guide and Nelly's Needlers expert lead visitors through the house.

Monday March 25th, and Wednesday March 27th

at 3:30pm - Beginners Needlework Techniques (Fee: \$25 per class or \$65 for all three, includes Needlework Show Admission and supplies)

Join members of Nelly's Needlers to learn the basics of three fundamental needlework techniques; counted cross-stitch, canvaswork (needlepoint), and surface embroidery.

March 25 - cross-stitch towel

March 27 - embroidered hat

Virtual Programs

(All virtual programs are free, with a suggested donation to support Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House) Saturday, March 23rd at 4:00pm ET -What Linens Know with Ruth Tabancay

Enjoy a fascinating virtual presentation by multi-disciplinary artist Ruth Tabancay as she discusses "What Linens Know" on exhibit at the Woodlawn Needlework Show. Ruth's exhibit is a unique spin on this year's theme, "Needlework in Everyday Life" as she examines the uses of vintage linens in everyday living and embroiders a lasting memory of the remains.

MARCH 1-30

"The Power of Two" Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernonn Ave., Alexandria. Features art that showcases two related items in one piece of art; for example, two-of-a-kind, complementary items, double-exposures, duos, twins, or multiple generations. "Double your pleasure, double your fun." Opening Reception: Friday, March 1, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed Sunday, March 31). Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

MARCH 23 - APRIL 13, 2024

Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express. At The Little Theatre of Alexandria. Adapted by Ken Ludwig. It's 1934, just after midnight, and a snowstorm has stopped the opulent sleeper train in its tracks. A wealthy American businessman is discovered dead, and the brilliant and beautifully mustachioed Hercule Poirot must solve the mystery before the murderer strikes again.

MARCH 5 THRU APRIL 28

Mosaics by Nina Tisara and Photographs by Steven Halperson. At Green Spring Gardens, 4601 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. The Opening Reception is Sunday, March 10, 1-3 p.m. The mother-son team had worked together at Tisara Photography in Old Town for three decades. Steven now manages the Alexandria portrait studio as well as creating painterly photographic images and unique etched copper art. Nina creates intricate mosaics of unglazed porcelain tile which are widely exhibited and collected. Their work may also be seen by appointment at Serenity Place Gallery, Nina's in-home gallery.

MARCH 9 TO APRIL 14

"Every Brilliant Thing." At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Work-



"Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express" will be featured March 23-April 13, 2024, at the Little Theatre of Alexandria. <https://thelittletheatre.com/performances/>

house Arts Center Performing Arts, announces its newest production, Every Brilliant Thing, a heartfelt one-person play that celebrates the little things that make life brilliant. "Every Brilliant Thing" is an interactive solo performance piece that explores the resilience of the human spirit and the capacity to find joy in all the little things. Showtimes are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are on sale now and range from \$25 to \$35. For more information, visit the website (www.workhousearts.org).

BEGINNING MARCH 20

Water Taxi to The Wharf to See Cherry Blossoms. Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St., Alexandria. Cruise from Old Town Alexandria to Washington, D.C., to enjoy the famous cherry blossoms. City Cruises Potomac Water Taxi offers a 25-minute direct water taxi from Old Town to The Wharf in D.C. From the dock at The Wharf, it is a 10-minute walk to the cherry blossoms at the Tidal Basin. The water taxi docks at the Transit Pier, 950 Wharf St. SW, near the Tidal Basin, the National Mall, Hains Point and a Capital Bikeshare station.

MARCH 16 THRU APRIL 21

Cherry Blossom Cruises with City Cruises. Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St., Alexandria. Traverse the Potomac River from Old Town Alexandria and cruise past the cherry blossoms in Washington, D.C. on the Monuments Sightseeing Cruise from City Cruises. View and listen to the history of the iconic monuments, memorials and bridges as the D.C. region awakens to spring. See beautiful cherry blossom trees as you glide past the Tidal Basin and head onward to Georgetown. The cruise is 45 minutes one-way and approximately 90 minutes roundtrip. Riders also have the option to explore Georgetown and return on a later boat.

MARCH 23 TO APRIL 14

Pink Torpedoes: Cherry Blossom Art in An Old Munitions Factory. At

Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St., Alexandria. Explore all three floors of Torpedo Factory Art Center, home to the nation's largest collection of working artists' open studios under one roof, to view a building-wide exhibition of art inspired by the iconic cherry blossoms. Participating artists will exhibit one or more unique artworks in their studio or gallery. Each artist will explore their interpretations of the cherry blossoms—culturally, colorfully and viscerally—and visitors will discover new ways of thinking about the region's seasonal pink event. Visitors will receive a "Pink Torpedoes" building map with locations of the artwork to discover. Each studio artist in the Art Center is selected by art experts and rank among the best in the region. Artists work in front of the visitor and discuss their work on view. Visitors may shop for one-of-a-kind art inspired by the cherry blossoms, plus more. Can't visit the exhibition? A select exhibition of artwork will be on view at torp

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

Jane Franklin Dance Presents Prime. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Prime journeys through the visual art of exhibiting artist Christine Ruksenas-Burton whose "paintings are conversations of colors inspired by her homeland (Australia) as well as modern art, minimalism, modernist architecture, and design." Jane Franklin's work positions solo dancers in conversation with color, duets in conjunction with line, and trios in hard edge abstractions of color and mood.

MARCH 29-30

The Art of Acting. At The Art Loft, 119 S. Fairfax Street, Loft Floor, Alexandria. Dates: March 29, from 6-8 p.m., and March 30, from 4-6 p.m. The Art Loft's first workshop will be "The Art of Acting: Theatre Tools for Everyday Life" by Pablo Andrade. In this 2-day workshop, New York-based, Award-Winning Actor, Director and Producer, Pablo Andrade will be teaching us useful acting techniques that can be applicable to our professional

and personal lives. For both actors and non-actors. Contact: info@ncocreative.com, 202-798-2505, ncocreative.com

APRIL 4 TO MAY 12

Special Gallery: "Japanese Inspiration." At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. To complement Washington's festivities celebrating the Japanese cherry blossoms around the Tidal Basin, the Athenaeum Gallery is featuring the work of three local contemporary artists whose work is influenced and guided by traditional Japanese art. Sean Doonan is an illustrator whose fanciful posters are inspired by Japanese mythology, anime, video games and pop culture. David Gootnick creates lacy and delicate designs out of wood using an ancient Japanese art form called Kumiko. And Yoshiko Ratliff's paintings are bold, but intricately detailed, representations of Japanese characters and kimonos.

APRIL 5-27

"Same But Different" Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that explores notions of identity, distinctions and similarities in our natural and manmade world. This exhibit showcases the interconnectedness of humanity and the uniqueness of things that may appear to be the same. Opening Reception: Friday, April 5, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

All Lit Up Like a Japanese Lantern: The Japanese Aesthetic in Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House. 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria. By 1941, the year Pope-Leighey House was completed, Frank Lloyd Wright had studied Japan for almost a half-century. He had become a serious collector of woodblock prints—even writing a book on the subject—and had won acclaim for his design of the Tokyo Imperial Hotel, one of the

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ENTERTAINMENT



The 2024 Spring Garden Market at River Farm takes place April 12-13, 2024. <https://ahsgardening.org/about-river-farm/events-programs/springgardenmarket2024/>

few buildings to survive the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923. On this special tour, visitors will discover how the famous American architect incorporated his love of Japanese art, architecture, and philosophy into Usonian homes, and how this East Asian influence shines in Wright's Pope-Leighey House.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

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

APRIL 12-13

2024 Spring Garden Market at River Farm. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At 7931 E. Boulevard Dr., Alexandria. Celebrate the start of gardening season with the American Horticultural Society's annual Spring

Garden Market at River Farm. This much-anticipated outdoor event, one of River Farm's largest and most popular fundraisers, brings together plant, seed and garden accessory retailers, nature-focused artists and authors, gardening experts, food vendors, and fun for the whole family. Proceeds from the Spring Garden Market directly contribute to the maintenance, beautification and preservation of River Farm, headquarters of the AHS since 1973. Online tickets are now available for River Farm's annual plant and nature-inspired marketplace. Visit www.ahsgardening.org/springgardenmarket2024.

SUNDAY/APRIL 14

Epics & Fantasies. 2 p.m. Featuring the President's Own United States Marine Band. At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, Alexandria. John Mackey's Wine-Dark Sea carries a bulk of the narrative in this Marine Band concert of poetry and stories. The 30-minute work draws its inspiration from Homer's Odyssey, distilling the epic poem into a handful of musical highlights. Vocal features include Sousa's "Annabel Lee," set

to the chilling verses written by Edgar Allen Poe, and a whimsical tale of "The Green-eyed Dragon" by Wolseley Charles. Debussy's Syrinx flute solo derives its name from a nymph in Greek mythology and the instrument known as "panpipes." The Marine Band's new Assistant

Director 1st Lt. Jose Toranzo will also make his debut, conducting Alfred Reed's El Camino Real, also known as The Royal Road: A Latin Fantasy.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Historic Garden Week Old Town.

Take a behind-the-scenes peek into the spectacular homes and gardens of six historic Old Town Alexandria properties kicking off the Garden Club of Virginia's historic annual statewide tour. Offering a glimpse into the town's storied past, the tour features homes dating from 1785. Expertly updated, tastefully furnished, and filled with spectacular floral arrangements designed by blue ribbon garden club members, each property features lovely, curated gardens filled with bountiful Spring flowers timed to bloom in concert with the tour. Tickets include admission to five private homes and gardens, Lee-Fendall House, a one-time private home with a rich history that now houses a museum and garden, as well as six nearby public properties, including: Mount Vernon, River Farm, Carlyle House, Gunston Hall and Green Spring Gardens. Advance tickets are \$55 online at www.vagardenweek.org and may be purchased tour day at the Alexandria Visitor's Center located at 221 King Street. The Garden Club of Virginia's (GCV) eight-day statewide tour from April 20 to 27 includes 170 private properties throughout Virginia. The Old Town Alexandria tour is hosted by the GCV's two local garden

clubs, Hunting Creek Garden Club and Garden Club of Alexandria. For more information, visit www.vagardenweek.org

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Third Annual ALX Dog Walk. 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. A 2-mile dog walk and celebration is back in Old Town Alexandria. Walkers meet at Oronoco Bay Park in Alexandria for an unforgettable experience. Walk and spread awareness about the importance of plastic-free and sustainable living. It's time to educate the community and make a positive impact. Pre-event registration check-in on Wednesday April 17th, from 12 pm to 7 pm to check-in and collect your sustainable Goodie Bag, t-shirt and doggie bandana, treat, and more. Register now! www.alxdogwalk.com/register

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.

MARCH

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Jen Halperin, left, is joined by directors of Alexandria preschools at a performance of Rocknoceros Feb 18 at First Baptist Church. The preschool directors sponsored the free performance for the community.



Rocknoceros Preschool directors sponsor community concert.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Local band Rocknoceros was back on stage courtesy of the Alexandria Preschool Directors Association as part of a community outreach event held at First Baptist Church.

"We are so excited to have Rocknoceros back," said Jen Halperin, chair of the preschool directors association. "Our association has a mission to provide educational opportunities for families and children in the city of Alexandria and this year we decided to expand that a little and have a fun social event."

Halperin, director of Agudas Achim Synagogue preschool, chairs the association that is made up of directors of half day preschools in Alexandria with most being affiliated with churches or synagogues.



Rocknoceros performs for members of the Alexandria community during a concert sponsored by Alexandria Preschool Directors Inc.

"It was hard during COVID but we feel like we are back in our groove."

— Jen Halperin,
chair of Alexandria Preschool
Directors Association

"We have talked about doing this sort of thing for the community and for the children," Halperin said. "We wanted to make it free and open to all whether or not you are affiliated with any of our preschools. Today we have about 350 attendees."

Added Tania Ryan, director of Meeting House Cooperative Preschool, "One of our missions is to do outreach and this is of course outreach to all young children and families."

Halperin said the organization hopes to do more of these programs in the future.

"It was hard during COVID but we feel like we are back in our groove," Halperin said. "This association has been around for decades. We proudly sponsor and promote early childhood education programs for children and families in the city of Alexandria."



Children dance to the music of Rocknocerso during a community performance Feb. 18 at First Baptist Church.

Dad, I Need Your Help



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I started writing this column on Sat. March 9, but stopped. I have already written/published three time-sensitive columns ("Rocky Road Ahead," "Not Great News," and "The Shoe Has Dropped") on the immediate (and I mean immediate) subject at hand: living with both stage IV chronic kidney disease and stage IV papillary thyroid cancer. Rather than put the figurative cart before the horse, I'm going to hold this column in abeyance (to use one of my late father's favorite words) and wait instead until we've seen the nephrologist (kidney doctor) on March 14. I imagine I'll be a bit clearer about my prospects – and expectations, after I've met – and spoke with this specialist, the likely point doctor of my care, especially if dialysis becomes my only option. (Side bar: I wish there' was more/regular communication between my oncologist and this recently referred-to nephrologist. They each seem to defer/refer to one another on the patient portal when I ask electronically about "this, that and the other" (to invoke Elaine Benes from Seinfeld), but I wish there was more togetherness. After all, it is my life at stake here. I am stopping now. I don't want to speak too much without thinking (a la Oscar Madison in "The Odd Couple" television show).

I am now restarting this column on Thurs., March 21. I can now write, with some knowledge of my medical situation since I've met the nephrologist and heard her recommendations: stop all the supplements, especially vitamins "d" and "k", stay hydrated but not to exceed 68 ounces per day, no colas or any dark liquids (ice tea is out), be aware of sodium, phosphorus and potassium as they stress out the kidneys. In summary, kidneys don't get better once they're damaged, as mine are (down to 25% of their normal function), and most importantly: no restart of my thyroid cancer medicine, as the damage to my kidneys is a direct side-effect-result of it (the graph of my levels shows a steady drop from stage III – where it had been the previous 10 years, to stage IV corresponding to the time three-plus years ago when I began my thyroid cancer treatment). Moreover, I should try to eat healthier, what they call a "renal diet." Lastly, she said that there is no medicine which is appropriate, given the cancer and chronic kidney disease and I'm not eligible for a kidney transplant. Other than that ...

Where that leaves me is in "trouble with a capital t," to quote Robert Preston from "The Music Man," (1962) with "A Rocky Road Ahead" now that "A Shoe Has Dropped." Most of what I heard from the nephrologist is "Not Great News." So, my last three cancer-centric columns, as listed above have been the precursor to this reality check: what kidney damage has been caused by my thyroid cancer medicine is irreparable and after visiting (I use that word lightly) the nephrologist, I now know some of what she knows and all of what she feels: I am indeed between a rock and hard place. To quote my late mother (and many others I'm sure) concerning this kind of predicament: "Nobody gets out of this life alive." And that's what I'm afraid of. During my early cancer days I used to wonder if I was further from the beginning or closer to the end. I no longer wonder. A damaged kidney that prevents treatment for the underlying disease: that's what I call my thyroid cancer now (that's some 'underlying disease') may be a bridge too far, unfortunately, to overcome.

I'm not down in the dumps, by any means. But hardly am I jumping for joy. Having faced similar obstacles previously, like being "prognosed" with "11 months to two years" to live - back in Feb. 09, (as I sit and type in year 16): I have certainly been down this road a time or two before. Nevertheless, two competing diseases where treatment for one damages the other and where no treatment at all damages the one may very well be, even for a positive thinker like me a bit of an emotional climb. For the moment though, my immediate focus is to stay off dialysis (just like Chris Rock would joke about his daughters "staying off the pole,") and see if the health chips fall in my favor again. I don't want to sound naïve and say since the chips very often have fallen in my way during the previous 15-plus years - from when I was originally given that terminal diagnosis, that they are like to fall again in my direction. Not. But who knows? Literally. Who does know? No one knows. As my father used to joke about similar conundrums: "I'm very seldom wrong but this time I'm right." That's my fear. Unable to get a straight answer. However, I don't think there will be anything funny about it.

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

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