

# Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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OCTOBER 26, 2023

## ‘Thriving Together’

### NAACP 90th anniversary Freedom Fund Gala.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**M**ore than 400 attendees turned out for the Alexandria NAACP’s 90th Anniversary Freedom Fund Gala Oct. 21 at the Westin Hotel Old Town.

With a theme of “Thriving Together,” the dinner featured NBC4 television personality Tony Perkins as emcee and U.S. Rep. Jennifer McClellan as the keynote speaker.

“Every generation has to do its part to make sure the republic

**“Every honoree is teaching us something about us as a people and about our community.”**

— Darryl S. Franklin,  
NAACP Alexandria  
branch president

gives everyone an opportunity to participate,” said McClellan, the first Black woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the Commonwealth. “Because in a government by, of, and for the people, we reflect the perspective and therefore meet the needs of the people who participate. And most of this country’s history has been over a battle making sure that included us.”

Local and state elected officials in attendance included U.S. Rep. Don Beyer, Mayor Justin Wilson and members of City Council. The dinner celebrated the founding of the Alexandria chapter of the NAACP on Oct. 10, 1933, at a meeting held at Alfred Street Bap-

SEE NAACP 90TH, PAGE 10



Keisha Culbreth Brooks, Col. Jim Paige and former Mayor Bill Euille are recognized for their work with the Concerned Citizens Network of Alexandria.



NAACP dinner emcee Tony Perkins, left, speaks with U.S. Rep. Jennifer McClellan and U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8).

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Crystal Vanison Robinson, left, poses for a photo with Audrey Davis and Gretchen Bulova of the Office of Historic Alexandria after presenting the City of Alexandria with the community service award for the Community Remembrance Project.



Community service honoree Ebonee Davis, left, with Jeanette Lightfoot.



# Wendy Santantonio

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**82 S WISE ST**  
ARLINGTON | SOLD FOR \$749,900



**6566 YADKIN CT**  
ALEXANDRIA | SOLD FOR \$470,000\*



**8005 TREVOR PL**  
VIENNA | SOLD FOR \$810,000



**502 CAMERON ST**  
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ALEXANDRIA | RENTED FOR \$3,675/MO

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\*Represented the Buyer

# NEWS

RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS Appearing of Record in Deed Book

153, Page 215, Alexandria City Land Records

"BEVERLY HILLS, SECTION FIVE"

Rec. 6/17/39

The following building restrictions shall apply to this subdivision:

- 1 That no house shall be erected in this subdivision other than a one-family house, and the design and value of each residence shall be approved by the owners of the subdivision or by the Permanesque Homes Village, Incorporated, before the erection thereof on any lot or lots in said subdivision.
- 2 That no structure of any description, including porches, shall be erected within fifteen feet of the front line of said premises.
- 3 That in the case of corner lots, any and all lines bordering upon a street, avenue or parkway, shall be considered a front line.
- 4 That no lot nor any part thereof shall be sold, rented or in any way conveyed to any person not of the Caucasian Race.

ALEXANDRIA CITY ARCHIVE

This restrictive covenant from 1939 prohibits a new subdivision from being sold, rented or conveyed 'to any person not of the Caucasian race.'



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

A recent Agenda Alexandria panel discussion explored the Zoning for Housing proposal. Panelists included, left to right, Roy Byrd, Karl Moritz, Susan Cunningham and Stephen Koenig.

## Zoned Out

### City Council to determine future of single-family housing in Alexandria.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

The history of zoning is a story of racism. One of the earliest uses of zoning in the early 20th century was segregating white populations from non-white populations. Here in Alexandria, the zoning ordinance was a tool in the toolbox for enforcing Jim Crow white supremacy of the 1920s by prioritizing single-family homes for wealthier homeowners over other types of development. Properties in African-American communities known as "Uptown" and "The Berg" were zoned industrial, marginalizing Black property owners

Now Alexandria is having a reckoning with its racist past, reconsidering the value of single-family housing.

"Unfortunately, if you look at our zoning map, and you overlay it with a demographic map of the city of Alexandria, they nearly match. And that's not an accident," said Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson. "The areas of our city that have more multi-family housing and have more density tend to be more diverse areas of our city, and the areas of our city that have predominantly single-family homes tend to be whiter."

The institutional racism of restrictive covenants spills over in page after page of a report presented to the city government last year, providing in painstaking detail

the specific language of Jim Crow segregation in Alexandria. There was the 1913 restrictive covenant of a subdivision on Princess, Oronoco, Fayette and Payne streets that prevented properties from being sold or rented to "any person of negro descent." Then there was the neighborhood behind the George Washington Masonic Memori-

**"In 2019, we came to City Council and said there's a list of 12 things we think we should do. It'll be a very familiar list to all of you because it's the same list that we're talking about right now except that three of them were accomplished in the interim."**

— Karl Moritz, Alexandria planning director

al where "no lot or lots shall ever be sold, leased, rented or in any way conveyed to any person or persons of African descent." Then there was Rosemont, where land ownership was prohibited for "anyone not of the Caucasian race."

Now, as Alexandria considers the crush of demand for more housing, members of the



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Opponents of the proposed changes have installed yard signs across Alexandria opposing zoning changes.

Alexandria City Council are about to consider a suite of proposals known as "Zoning for Housing/Housing for All." The goal of the plan is to address the exclusionary housing provisions of the past while also expanding affordability and availability of a place to call home. A similar effort was recently implemented in neighboring Arlington, where opponents were able to elect one critic of the proposal thanks to the use of ranked-choice voting.

"I'm not suggesting that we do away with zoning," said Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson. "We use portions of our zoning code for good things, and I don't oppose the entire concept. But I do think we need to apply strict scrutiny on the zoning provisions we

have and ensure that they do not have a disparate impact, particularly to ensure that some of the provisions are not segregating our communities."

AGENDA ALEXANDRIA recently hosted a panel discussion on the topic, which featured biting criticism from a newly created group known as "Coalition for a Livable Alexandria." Roy Byrd, chairman of the coalition, appeared as a panelist and described Zoning for Housing as a "giveaway to developers," constructing too much too fast too soon. Ultimately, he said, he didn't understand why City Council members were in

SEE ZONING FOR HOUSING, PAGE 15



Families participate in a science experiment at the 8th annual Spooky Science Expo Oct. 21 at Armistead Boothe Park.



Spooky Science Expo organizer Zoreh Khoshnamak, second from right, with participants Oct. 21 at Armistead Boothe Park.

# Spooky Science Mad Science Expo inspires STEAM learning.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

**H**undreds of future astronauts, scientists, mathematicians and engineers turned out Oct. 21 for the 8th annual Spooky Mad Science Expo, held for the first time at Armistead Boothe Park.

The popular event, which combines Halloween and science learning projects, is the

**“We strive to inspire the next generation of innovators, problem solvers, and leaders in the fields of science and technology.”**

— Mad Science Expo founder Zohreh Khoshnamak

brainchild of Watergate at Landmark resident Zohreh Khoshnamak, who founded the community’s Science Club. The volun-

teer-based event began as a way to serve the families at The Watergate at Landmark, which has around 4,000 residents, but out-

grew the residential complex and now attracts families from throughout the city.

“This is the first year that we will be holding the Expo as a nonprofit,” said Khoshnamak of the K-12 event. “It is also the first year that the event will be held in an open location serving the entire West End community and in effect the city of Alexandria.”

The event is the only community-based

SEE MAD SCIENCE, PAGE 5



Elizabeth Warner of the University of Maryland Space Science Outreach Cooperative demonstrates how to safely observe the sun through special telescopes.



A future astronaut gets checked out at the Spooky Science Expo Oct. 21 at Armistead Boothe Park.



Mario Juarez, Reinaldo Fernandez and Adriaan McPhee enjoy the Spooky Science Expo Oct. 21 at Armistead Boothe Park.

# Mad Science Expo Inspires STEAM Learning

FROM PAGE 4

science event of its size in the region and provides students with hands-on, experiential learning opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM). More than 60 organizations participated in the event and provided hands-on demonstrations for attendees.

Interest in the event has grown continuously over the years with more than 500 attending last year's event.

"We were limited in size due to the nature of our gated community," said Khoshnamak in explaining the move to Armistead Boothe Park. "This year our primary objective is to provide more students in Alexandria's West End, which has many low-income families with limited access to opportunities, and their families with interactive and engaging activities, exciting exhibits, and demonstrations. We strive to inspire the next generation of innovators, problem solvers, and leaders in the fields of science and technology."

To learn more about the club, contact Zohreh Khoshnamak at khoshnamak@gmail.com.



Dr. Spooked at the Spooky Science Expo.

PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

# Drug TAKE BACK Day

DISPOSE OF UNUSED OR EXPIRED MEDICATIONS

OCTOBER 28 | 10 A.M.-2 P.M.

Pet prescriptions also accepted!

ALEXANDRIA.GOV/OPIOIDS | PREVENTALEXANDRIA.ORG

## SAFELY DISPOSE OF MEDICATIONS

The U.S. is experiencing an opioid epidemic and Alexandria is far from immune. The best way to fight this epidemic is to dispose of unused or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medication. Individuals can drop off medication at these designated locations or year-round at a permanent drop box location. Never flush medication down the toilet or place down the sink! Unsafe disposal of drugs can harm the environment.

Everyone should stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and get tested if they have symptoms. Individuals may choose to wear a mask at any time. Specific settings, such as health care and congregate facilities, may require masks.

To learn more about the importance of safe medication disposal, visit alexandria.gov/Opioids.

## Alexandria Take Back Day Drop-Off Locations\*

- Alexandria Police Headquarters  
3600 Wheeler Ave.
- The Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray  
2204 Mt. Vernon Ave.
- Alexandria Fire Station 210  
5255 Eisenhower Ave.
- NEW LOCATION! Woodbine Rehab. & Health Center  
2729 King St.
- Goodwin House Alexandria  
4800 Fillmore Ave.

\*NO NEEDLES ACCEPTED AT THESE SITES

## Can't make it to Drug Take Back Day? Dispose of medications year-round at one of these permanent drug drop box locations!

- The Neighborhood Pharmacy  
2204 Mount Vernon Ave.  
Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Saturday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Sunday: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Alexandria Police Headquarters  
3600 Wheeler Ave.  
Just inside the entrance  
Available 24/7
- Inova Alexandria Hospital  
4320 Seminary Rd.  
Visitor's Lobby  
Next to the cashier's window  
Daily: 8 a.m.-11 p.m.

NEEDLE DISPOSAL BOX ALSO AVAILABLE AT THIS LOCATION!



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PHOTOS BY JASON DIXON PHOTOGRAPHY

Hundreds attend the inaugural Pink Gala Oct. 20 at the ALX Community Atrium.

# Pretty In Pink

Inaugural gala raises \$60k for National Breast Center Foundation.

**B**reast cancer survivors were among the attendees who turned out Oct. 20 for the inaugural ALX Pink Gala, held at and sponsored by ALX Community, raising \$60,000 for the National Breast Center Foundation.

The evening surpassed its fundraising goal by \$10,000 at the gala held at the ALX Community Atrium on South Washington Street. ALX VIP Magazine was co-sponsor of the event.

The evening featured a silent auction, giveaways, an open bar, drinks, food, and entertainment. The event also featured special guest and Fox5 reporter Ayesha Khan, a breast cancer survivor, who shared her journey when she was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer during the pandemic in 2021.

The event benefited the National Breast Center Foundation, which works with a network of health care providers to provide discounted services on mammograms and diagnostic tests, covering 200 mammograms, 50 biopsies, and 35 ultrasounds to women who are uninsured or underinsured each year. In honor of the event and to help raise breast cancer awareness, the George Washington Memorial turned pink from Oct. 19-21.

[www.nationalbreastcenterfoundation.org](http://www.nationalbreastcenterfoundation.org)

- JEANNE THEISMANN



National Breast Center Foundation executive director Martha Carucci, second from left, with Maurisa Potts, Councilwoman Aliya Gaskins and ALX Community COO Kelly Great at the Pink Gala Oct. 20 at the ALX Community Atrium.



The George Washington Masonic National Memorial is lit up in pink in honor of breast cancer awareness and the inaugural Pink Gala held Oct. 20.

PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER/GAZETTE PACKET

THE SCHOONER PRIDE OF BALTIMORE II, a replica of the 1812 ship Pride of Baltimore, paid a three-day visit to Alexandria Oct. 20-22. Free deck tours provided visitors the opportunity to learn more about the War of 1812, Thomas Boyle, privateers, and the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. The Pride of Baltimore II was launched from her Inner Harbor birthplace on April 30, 1988, and has since sailed 275,000 nautical miles and visited 200 ports in 40 countries.

# VOTE

## Make a Plan to Vote Early; Or Vote Nov. 7

The City of Alexandria residents have early voting options for the Nov. 7 General Election. All registered voters in Virginia are eligible to vote by mail or in person.

The Nov. 7 general election ballot includes a contest for the Virginia House of Delegates and Virginia Senate

### EARLY VOTING

The deadline to vote early is Saturday, Nov. 4, at 5 p.m.

Early voting hours are offered at the following locations and times:

Office of Voter Registration and Elections (132 N. Royal St., Suite 100)

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Additional and Extended Hours:

Saturday, Oct. 28, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 29, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 30, 8 a.m.–7 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 8 a.m.–7 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 1, 8 a.m.–7 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 2, 8 a.m.–7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 4, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Opens for early voting on Friday, Oct. 27

Friday, Oct. 27, 1 p.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 29, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 30, 1 p.m.–7 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 1 p.m.–7 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 1, 1 p.m.–7 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 2, 1 p.m.–7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 3, 1 p.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 4, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

### VOTING BY MAIL

Applications to request a mail-in ballot must be received in the Office of Voter Registration & Elections by 5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 27. Access an application in one of the following ways:

By visiting [vote.elections.virginia.gov](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov) to submit an application online.

By downloading the application available on the City's Elections webpage.

By calling Voter Registration & Elections at 703.746.4050 to request that an application is mailed to you.

Completed ballots must be either returned to the Office of Voter Registration & Elections by 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 7, or postmarked by Nov. 7 and received in the office by noon on Monday, Nov. 13. To vote in person, an application is not required. Applications should not be submitted before voting in person.

### BALLOT DROP BOXES

Ballot drop boxes will be available at all polling places on Nov. 7, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A secure outdoor drop box, under video surveillance, is available in front of the Office of Voter Registration & Elections, 24 hours a day, through Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. Additionally, a ballot drop box will be available at the same dates and times listed above for in-person voting at Beatley Library.

### ELECTION DAY VOTING

If you vote on Election Day, Nov. 7, you must do so at your designated polling place. On Election Day, polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Confirm your voting location and your registration at

SEE VOTE, PAGE 8

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**AGS** ALEXANDRIA  
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL  
[www.acdsnet.org](http://www.acdsnet.org)



GRADES K-8

Join us for an OPEN HOUSE  
Nov 4 • Nov 16 • Dec 5 • Dec 6 • Jan 4

## CIVIL WAR BOOKS, RELICS & MEMORABILIA SHOW

**Saturday, November 4, 10:00 – 4:00**  
Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge, Rt. 50, Fairfax, VA

Admission, \$5 Per Person

Vendors Welcome

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Hosted by Alexandria Youth Ambassadors

# Alexandria

Youth AND Caring Adult Summit

let's TALK

**Why You Should Attend:**

- Hear from youth about their lived experiences with mental illness
- Talk about mental health awareness and promoting youth safety and resilience
- Support youth leaders in impacting change in our community

**First Baptist Church of Alexandria**  
2932 King St, Alexandria, VA 22302  
Thursday, November 9, 2023  
4:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Attendees must be high school students or caring adults

Gift Card Raffle!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER,  
SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT [ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV/GO/4871](http://ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV/GO/4871)

17th annual



# Alexandria Film Festival

Celebrating independents for 17 years!

Film Festival



## Live Programming Nov 10-12, 2023

**Friday**  
Beatley Library

**Saturday and Sunday**  
AMC Hoffman Theatre  
The Lyceum

Schedule and Tickets at  
**AlexFilmFest.com**

Questions? Contact us at: [info.alexandriafilm@gmail.com](mailto:info.alexandriafilm@gmail.com)

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## COMMUNITY



### Guest House: Largest Graduating Class in Its History

Friends of Guest House will graduate a group of 26 graduates, its largest class in history. The formerly incarcerated women have successfully completed their transformative one-year residential and after-care program. The event will take place on Oct. 28, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Alexandria.

The programs at Friends of Guest House have empowered these women to make positive changes in their lives, by offering a second chance and a fresh start to those who have faced adversity. The graduation ceremony will not only honor the achievements of these remarkable women but also symbolize their resilience, determination, and commitment to rebuilding their lives. Prayer blankets for the women will be provided by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Each graduate will also receive pearl earrings from the Alexandria Kiwanis Club, courtesy of Nugget Jewelers, symbolizing the challenge and adversity to overcome extreme pressure and hardship while transforming into something unique and beautiful.

The event will feature speeches from program leaders, mentors, and former graduates themselves, who will share their personal journeys of growth and transformation. It will be a momentous

occasion that brings together the community to celebrate the strength and potential of these women.

“The graduation ceremony never fails to inspire” said Friends of Guest House Executive Director, Sonja Allen. “We have served over 5,000 women in our programs, which is such a powerful number, but when I watch a woman walk up and receive her certificate of completion, I am reminded of the incredible effort it took her to earn that recognition. They have climbed mountains and overcome so much hardship. I am undone with joy to celebrate this accomplishment with our 2023 graduates.”

Friends of Guest House invites community members and supporters to join us in recognizing these extraordinary women and the positive impact they are making in our society. We believe that their stories of redemption and rehabilitation are a testament to the transformative power of Alexandria’s compassion, support, and education.

Friends of Guest House helps women successfully reenter the community from incarceration. Since its founding in 1974, Guest House has helped more than 5,000 women break the vicious cycle of incarceration, reunite with their families, and reintegrate into their communities.

### Make a Plan to Vote Early; Or Vote Nov. 7

FROM PAGE 7

[vote.elections.virginia.gov](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov) before you go. You may also call the Office of Voter Registration & Elections at 703.746.4050.

For Nov. 7, note the following change to polling places:

The South Port Apartments Precinct will vote at the Tucker School (435 Ferdinand Day Drive.)

#### SAME DAY REGISTRATION

If you missed the normal registration period that ended on Oct. 16, Same Day Registration is available to you. To register and vote on the same day, you must be in the correct locality and at the cor-

rect polling location. You will be issued a provisional ballot and you will cast your vote on this provisional ballot. This is a ballot that will not be scanned and will not be reflected in the “unofficial” results on election night, but once it is verified that these are properly cast Same Day Registration provisional votes, they will be included in the “official” vote tally for the election. If you have questions about the Same Day Registration process, please contact us at [voters@alexandriava.gov](mailto:voters@alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-4050

Visit [alexandriava.gov/Elections](http://alexandriava.gov/Elections) for complete election information, including voter registration requirements, sample ballots, precinct maps and ID requirements.



PHOTO BY MATT LIPTAK

Joshua Nettinger as the Monster, Noah Mutterperl as Dr. Frankenstein and Joshua Redford as Igor in the Little Theatre of Alexandria production of the Mel Brooks musical *Young Frankenstein*, running now through Nov. 11.

# It's Alive!

**Fiendish fun in LTA's *Young Frankenstein*; special performance set for Oct. 31.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
GAZETTE PACKET

The comedic genius of Mel Brooks comes to life in the Little Theatre of Alexandria's "Young Frankenstein," the musical version of the horror movie parody of the same name that first debuted in 1974.

With music and lyrics by Brooks and book by Thomas Meehan, the LTA production embraces all the camp, puns and cheesy double-entendres of the original cult classic film starring Gene Wilder and Marty Feldman.

LTA has assembled a cast and crew that more than rises to the occasion to do justice to the iconic roles created on screen as a comic take on Mary Shelley's 19th century novel "Frankenstein."

Led by award-winning director Frank D. Shutts II, LTA has staged an impressive production based on the West End musical, which follows Dr. Frederick Frankenstein from New York to Transylvania upon inheriting his recently deceased grandfather Victor's castle.

Embarrassed to be a Frankenstein and insisting his name be pronounced "Fronkensteen," the doctor bids his fiancée Elizabeth farewell and embarks on a journey into musical madcap mayhem.

With the help of a hunchbacked sidekick, Igor (pronounced "Eye-gore"), and a leggy lab assistant, Inga, Frederick finds himself in the mad scientist shoes of his ancestors. "It's alive!" he exclaims as he brings to life a creature to rival his grandfather's.

Noah Mutterperl, a WATCH award winner, ably steps into Gene Wilder's shoes as Frederick, showcasing an impressive comedic technique that is equally matched by an infectious enthusiasm.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Joshua Redford, another WATCH award winner, plays Igor, bringing back to life the bugged out eyes and shifting hump oddity of the film's deadpan Marty Feldman.

Joshua Nettinga rises from the dead as The Monster, especially coming to life in the second half as he charms the audience with an impressive tap-dance turn in "Puttin' On the Ritz." Also charmed is Frederick's now former fiancé Elizabeth, played to campy perfection by Liz Colandene.

Rounding out the cast are Claire Jeffrey as the yodeling Inga, Judy Lewis as Victor's old housekeeper with benefits Frau Blucher, Brian Ash as Inspector Hans Kemp and James Macted as The Hermit.

Augmenting the mega-talented cast, producers Rachel Alberts and Russell M. Wyland have assembled a crew that leaves the audience in awe with choreography by Stefan Sittig, set design by Robert S. Barr Jr., lighting design by Ken and Patti Crowley, costume design by Jean Schlichting and Kit Sibley, and makeup by Natalie Turkevich.

The gifted musicians are under the direction of Francine Krasowska and Christopher A. Tomasino showcasing such memorable tunes as "The Transylvania Mania," "He Vas My Boyfriend" and the showstopping "Puttin' on the Ritz."

But in the sea of the stellar cast and ensemble, it is Mutterperl's Frederick that sits at the center of LTA's staging. From his rapid-fire singing the praises of the cerebellum to losing himself in the ample charms of Inga, Mutterperl is a delight to watch as he carries the audience along on his journey of fiendish fun.

LTA's *Young Frankenstein* provides an evening of comedy delight that is every bit as relevant to audience members who remember the original while bringing newcomers along for the wild ride. The show runs now through Nov. 11 with a special Halloween performance on Oct. 31 that invites attendees to participate in a costume contest that will be judged by the LTA cast.

For tickets or more information, visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com)

The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Mark Your Calendar for the

**Project Discovery WALKATHON**

8:30 a.m. Saturday, October 28, 2023  
Fort Ward Park  
4301 W Braddock Road

To learn more, sign up, or donate, visit:  
[alexandriava.gov/PDwalkathon](http://alexandriava.gov/PDwalkathon)

All proceeds benefit Project Discovery of Alexandria.

Logos for: City of Alexandria, Department of Community and Human Services, ST·J, Your Dog's Best Friends, Project Discovery of Alexandria.

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5:30PM-7PM  
@Goodwin House Alexandria

Get your tickets at  
[thechamberalx.com](http://thechamberalx.com)



U.S. Rep. Jennifer McClellan, left, and Roberto Gomez, right, with George Washington Middle School students Terry Shomari and Tre Dorsey.



NAACP Alexandria branch president Darrlynn S. Franklin, right, with community service honorees Joe Wenger and Kiki Davis.

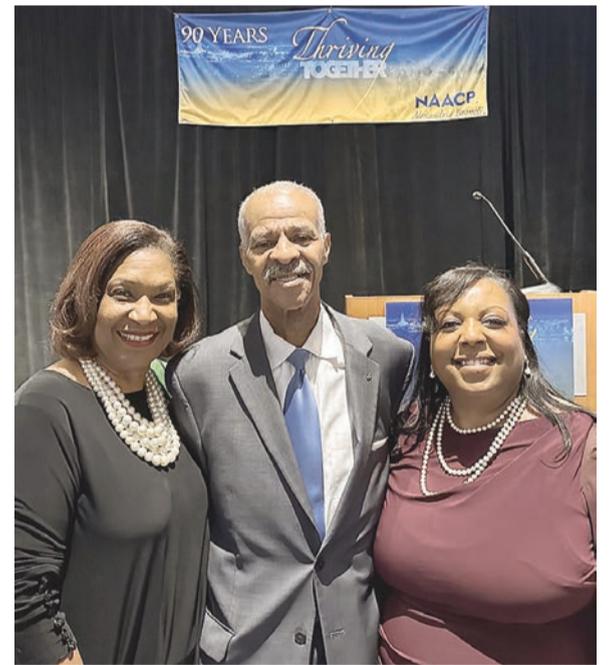
# NAACP 90th Anniversary Freedom Fund Gala



NBC4 news anchor Tony Perkins welcomes attendees to the NAACP-Alexandria Branch Freedom Fund Gala Oct. 21 at the Westin Hotel Old Town.



Mayor Justin Wilson, right, with Merrick Malone.



Laverne Chapman, McArthur Myers, and Alexandria NAACP chapter president Darrlynn S. Franklin.

FROM PAGE 1  
tist Church.

Two George Washington Middle School students attended their first dinner as guests of Councilwoman Aliya Gaskins.

"This was a wonderful evening," said GWMS student Terry Shomari. "I learned a lot tonight about Black history."

Added GWMS student Tre Dorsey, "I learned tonight about what it was like for Black people in America and how far we have come. I appreciate more all that has been

done to make progress."

The NAACP dinner recognized individuals and organizations with its community service awards for their ongoing efforts impacting Alexandria.

This year's honorees included: The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project for its citywide initiative to educate citizens about Alexandria's history of racial terror hate crimes and to work toward creating a welcoming community through equity and inclusion; the Concerned Citizens Network of Al-

xandria for providing support to disenfranchised city populations; Ebonee Davis for her work with the Virginia Theological Seminary's Reparations program; and Kiki Davis and Joe Wenger for their Racial Healing Seminars held for city residents.

Said NAACP Alexandria branch president Darrlynn S. Franklin, "Every honoree is teaching us something about us as a people and about our community and how we only thrive when we thrive together."

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### SEEKING ARTS GROUPS

The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts is seeking up to three New Project Residents who could be an artist, artists group or arts organization who will each develop and execute

one New Project on Saturday, December 16 to engage audiences in an arts project. The New Project Residency Program is funded by National Endowment for the Arts and the City of Alexandria, VA. New Projects will be site-specific and will aim to inspire and engage the public. The New Projects will be held at the George Washington Masonic

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

## CAREGIVING CORNER

# My Aunt Has Dementia

BY DEBORAH TOMPKINS JOHNSON  
SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE PACKET

In last month's column we talked about ways to experience pleasant times with our loved ones with dementia. Not surprising, but consider it confirmed, it is crucial to communicate pleasantly and to communicate in different ways.

As fate would have it, I had previously scheduled a visit with an aunt a couple of weeks prior to an interview with a speech pathologist.

On phone calls with my aunt that would last about 10-15 minutes, I could not tell she had dementia. The mild dementia came to light after I had spent less than an hour in-person with my aunt. For the duration of the visit, I was able to utilize some of what I learned from my conversations with the speech pathologist.

As suggested, I walked in with a smile and greeted my aunt with a big hug. Smiling and touch are important. My aunt smiled back, seemed relaxed, present, and happy.

Planning extra time for our visits is important. Don't be in a rush.

I traveled to Philadelphia for the visit and planned to spend a few hours with my aunt Friday and a shorter visit Saturday morning. I am thankful the 2-part visit seemed to have provided ample time. As midday approached during the Saturday visit, I could tell my aunt was becoming more focused on the pending lunch gathering in the dining room with other residents. So, she seemed just fine when I told her I would be heading out to travel back home.

The speech and communications expert had discussed with me the importance of sensory stimulation. You know — seeing, hearing, taste, smell and touch.

I had packed a scented hand

cream to take with me for the visit. On Saturday morning I handed the container of cream to my aunt. She asked what it was. So, I opened the container and massaged her hands. She absolutely enjoyed that and commented on the pleasant smell.

Sharing a limited number of pictures is also advisable. I brought some photographs to share with my aunt. But I did not need them on this trip.

My aunt had many of her own old photographs on display in her room — even back to a high school photo of herself, a wedding photo, and dozens of others. She reminisced about the photos, and most sweetly, she blushed. I selected a couple other photographs, one at a time, showed them to her up close and asked about them. "Is this you?" I asked. "Is this your high school graduation photograph?" "And here you are at your wedding." Phrasing questions that only require a "yes" or "no" response shows deference towards our loved ones. Yes-No questions allow the dementia patient to easily answer, and they only need elaborate if they are able.

For the visit, I wanted my aunt to be able to see some people she had not seen for more than a year. Video phone calls turned out to be a great idea. I had planned and prepared to have my aunt call a friend and a cousin using a smart phone video-call app.

Oh my — she loved those calls! It was adorable to observe her having this experience. For the first call, it took my aunt a few seconds to adjust and figure out what was going on. As she held the phone in her hand, she said, "I can see her," when she noticed her friend on the phone screen. "Oh, I see myself," she said and laughed. "Can she see me?" My aunt's sister pointed to the phone and explained to my aunt what was happening. I am glad to tell you that my aunt

caught on quickly. For the second call, which was to our cousin, my aunt seemed like a pro.

I am thankful for the pleasant visit and especially that my aunt seemed happy and peaceful throughout.

For your visits with aging or ailing loved ones, especially if they have dementia, remember to allow plenty of time, in fact extra time. Smile a lot and notice if they smile back and seem relaxed. Speak to them with care and compassion. Engage many senses. Remember photographs, but just a few at a time. The photographs can prompt conversation and hopefully pleasant memories. Video calls could be a positive experience. Consider giving the video chat a try.

A final thought. It is very important for us to remember to visit when we can prioritize the pleasantness of the experience for our loved one. Yet, we are only human. As caregivers, relatives and friends, we have days when we are stressed or overwhelmed with other responsibilities — or simply tired and in need of rest. Do take care of yourself and if necessary, visit another day — hopefully soon.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Deborah Tompkins Johnson holds a cream to use in massaging loved ones' hands or arms as a way to do something special for them and importantly, stimulates the senses as well.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## ALEXANDRIA COLONIAL TOURS' GHOST & GRAVEYARD TOUR

Wednesdays through Sundays in September at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30, 8:30 and 9 p.m. Nightly in October at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30, 8:30 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$15 for adults; \$10 for children; free for children under 6 years old. Tours meet at the Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King Street, Alexandria. Walk your way through the charming streets of historic Old Town Alexandria. Follow a colonial-costumed guide by lantern light for an engaging history tour on Alexandria's original Ghost and Graveyard Tour. During this entertaining tour, you'll hear ghost stories, legends, folklore, unsolved mysteries, tales of romance and angry ghosts looking for revenge. Visit alexcolonialtours.com.

## 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/>

## OCT. 2-29

**Cascades Art Exhibition.** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Van Landingham Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center (Gallery 311), 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. The Van Landingham Gallery presents a solo exhibition from Gregory Logan Dunn entitled Cascades, a collection of oil and acrylic paintings created during his studio residency at the Torpedo Factory this past year. Original paintings and print reproductions of the artist's work will be available for purchase.

## OCT. 3 TO NOV. 13

**"The Spirit Within" Exhibit.** At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Drive, Alexandria. Mosaic artist Nina Tisara and artist-photographer Steven Halperson will exhibit their art work in the Fireplace Art Alcove. MVUC members and friends are invited to an artists' reception on Sunday, November 12, 2:30 - 5 p.m. RSVP: [ninat@ninatisara.com](mailto:ninat@ninatisara.com).

## OCT. 6-28

**The "Curses! Foiled Again! The Art of Swords and Sorcery" exhibit.** At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Features art that evokes the fantastic and swashbuckling. Opening Reception: Friday, October 6, 7-9 p.m. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed on October 29, 2023). Details on the art exhibit and related creative programs at [DelRayArtisans.org/event/curses-foiled-again](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/curses-foiled-again)

## OCT. 10 TO NOV. 19

**"Reflection Unknown" Photography**

**Exhibit by Fred Zafran.** At Multiple Exposures Gallery, Alexandria. Opening Reception: Sunday, October 22, 2023, 2 - 4 p.m. Fred Zafran has long been interested in photography as a distinctive means of storytelling. His work examines the artistic possibilities of photographs that combine the poetic with a representational view of the world. The resulting photo essays which Zafran calls "poetic narrative," are post-documentary in that the stories are open ended, subjective, rich in symbolism and metaphor, and encourage consideration and interpretation by the viewer.

## OCT. 19 TO NOV. 26

**Fleeting Moments | Street Photography.** At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Fleeting Moments features photographs that capture candid moments, revelatory interpretations, and brilliant reflections of the mundane — work commonly referred to as "street photography." In 1943 the New York Times referred to the street photography of Helen Levitt, as, "fleeting moments of surpassing lyricism, mystery and quiet drama." Those qualities are the hallmark of the works selected for this show.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 26

**Jane Franklin Dance Performance.** 7 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St., Alexandria. Jane Franklin Dance Performance in response to Temporary Public Art Installation "Two Boxes of Oranges and Admonia Jackson" by Nina Cooke John. The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to fund its community Artist Residency Program. The Artist Residency Program integrates visual and performing artists in the community to conduct interactive art engagements at the Waterfront Park public art initiative Site See. As part of the Artist Residency Program, Jane Franklin Dance was selected to bring interpretive movement pieces inspired by the artwork to the Waterfront Park.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 28

**Project Discovery Walkathon.** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Fort Ward Park Amphitheater, 4301 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria. Anyone may attend. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/projectdiscovery](http://www.alexandriava.gov/projectdiscovery)

## SATURDAY/OCT. 28

**Trick-or-Treating at Mount Vernon Estate, Mount Vernon.** 2-6 p.m. Collect candy around the historic grounds and celebrate Halloween with 18th-century entertainment and activities. There's a costume parade on the historic grounds, 18th-century entertainment, magic, demonstrations, a puppet show, live music, and more. Tickets for this popular event on sale now.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 28

**Lights Out - Halloween Party at the Cemetery 7 to 9:30 p.m.** At Ivy Hill Cemetery, Alexandria. Costume contest, games and prizes, haunted vault, cemetery tours.



The Old Town Family Trick or Treat takes place on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023 in Old Town Alexandria.

Register online - [bit.ly/3Pwtbtt](http://bit.ly/3Pwtbtt)

## SATURDAY/OCT. 28

**Carlyle Halloween Stampede.** 2 to 6 p.m. At Whiskey & Oyster, 301 John Carlyle St., Alexandria. The 3rd Annual Carlyle Halloween Stampede features all-day festive cocktails, signature party favors, costume contests, photo ops, giveaways and more. Guests can start the crawl and pick up their wristbands at any of the participating restaurants: Whiskey & Oyster, Sweet Fire Donna's, Tequila and Taco or Lost Boy Cider. Costumes are recommended. There will be costume prizes for the most festively dressed participants. Visit [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

## SATURDAY/OCT. 28

**Tall Ship Providence Presents the Halloween Howl.** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; tours 45 minutes to one hour. At Senator John Warner Maritime Heritage Center, 1A Prince St., Alexandria. Arrive in costume for some Halloween fun aboard tall ship Providence! Little ghosts and goblins will be taking over the floating maritime center as they rotate through stations of story time, crafts and activities then step aboard Providence with legendary Captain John Paul Jones. Visit [tallshipprovidence.org](http://tallshipprovidence.org).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 28

**Old Town Family Trick or Treat.** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At various locations in Old Town Alexandria. Bring the family and enjoy trick-or-treating in the various shops and restaurants in Old Town along upper and lower King Street and select side streets. Visit [oldtownbusiness.org](http://oldtownbusiness.org) for the starting point and map pick-up location.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 28

**Tall Ship Providence Presents "Ghost Ship Providence".** 7 to 10 p.m. At Senator John Warner

Maritime Heritage Center, 1A Prince St., Alexandria. All aboard for an adults-only costume party! Cross the gangway (if you dare) for a hauntingly good time. DJ, open bar, food, costume contest and raffles will all take place at the floating heritage center and aboard Providence. Visit [tallshipprovidence.org](http://tallshipprovidence.org).

## SUNDAY/OCT. 29

**Old Town Doggie Trick or Treat.** 1 to 5 p.m. At The Dog Park, 705 King Street, Alexandria. Bring your dog for a howling day of walking through Old Town and visiting participating merchants who will offer treats for your four-legged companion. Start at The Dog Park boutique, located at 705 King Street. For more information, visit [www.oldtownbusiness.org](http://www.oldtownbusiness.org).

## SUNDAY/OCT. 29

**Del Ray Halloween Parade.** 2 p.m. Begins at Mount Vernon Ave., south of E. Bellefonte Ave. Alexandria. One of Del Ray's favorite traditions, the annual Del Ray Halloween Parade, returns once again. Children, pets and strollers in costumes are invited to march and show off their finest and scariest Halloween garb. For more information, including details on entering the house decorating contest, pet costume contest and stroller decorating contest, visit [www.visitdelray.com](http://www.visitdelray.com).

## MONDAY/OCT. 30

**Halloween Tales at River Farm.** 6-7 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Acclaimed local actor (and retired Arlington Judge) William T. Newman Jr. joins Classical WETA's Nicole Lacroix and ghost storytellers Nikisha Kozik and Jimmy Meritt at River Farm to narrate suspenseful (and slightly spooky) passages from the Old Town Mystery book series by local author John Adam Wasowicz.

You'll hear passages from Daingerfield Island set on Halloween night along the Potomac River and from Gadsby's Corner as The Female Stranger helps solve a crime that occurs on 'Mystery in the Museum' night at Gadsby's. Admission is free for children and adults.

## TUESDAY/OCT. 31

**Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens, Tuesdays @ 10. 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., Simpson Demonstration Gardens, 420 E. Monroe Ave, Alexandria.** Meet and talk with Extension Master Gardeners in the Simpson Demonstration Gardens to learn the best uses for fallen leaves and other organic garden waste. Free.

## NOV. 3-26

**The Housemates exhibit.** At Del Ray Artisans Gallery 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Exhibit showcases art from Del Ray Artisans members celebrating the beings we live with. Housemates may have fur, feathers, fins, scales, or be human. Opening Reception: Friday, November 3, 7-9 p.m.. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (Closed on Thanksgiving Day). Plus bring in donations for cat and dog rescue groups. Details at [DelRayArtisans.org/event/housemates](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/housemates)

## SATURDAY/NOV. 4

**David Buskin with Heather Aubrey Lloyd.** 7 p.m. At St. Aidan's Episcopal Church 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. David Buskin's songs and jingles have been recorded by many great artists; a sample: Judy Collins, Peter, Paul & Mary, Johnny Mathis, Astrud Gilberto, Tom Rush, Dixie Carter, Roberta Flack, Mel Tormé, Take 6, Phoebe Snow, Richie Havens and Arlo Guthrie. He is a New York Nightlife Award, Bistro Award and Clio Award winner and tonight he's joined by

# ENTERTAINMENT



The Alexandria Fall Festival will take place on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023 at River Farm in Alexandria.

local singer/songwriter Heather Aubrey Lloyd for a special night of “melodic, sensual pop, folkie grit and killer wit”. Visit [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org)

#### SATURDAY/NOV. 4

**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>.

#### SUNDAY/NOV. 5

**Alexandria Fall Festival.** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Dr. in Alexandria. Food trucks, pony rides, magic shows, beer garden, bounce houses and more.

A lineup of local culinary favorites will be in attendance including Goodies Frozen Custard & Treats, Rocklands Barbeque and Grilling Company, Port City Brewing Co., Lost Boy Cider, Paradise Springs Winery, DC Slices, Big Boy Tacos, A.M. Kettle, The Little Well, Milaap Chai, Taste of Asia and FT. Valley Farm at Mont Medi. Expect all your fall favorites — from kettle corn and hot chocolate to apple treats and much more! There will be plenty of family-friendly fun at Riv-

er Farm — two magic shows from The Great Zucchini, caricature drawings from Capital Artworks, face painting from Sunrise Face Painting, pony rides and petting zoo from Mary’s Go Round Petting Zoo, Big Country Amusements bounce houses, Something Vintage lawn games and more! Visit [alexandriafallfestival.com](http://alexandriafallfestival.com).

#### SUNDAY/NOV. 5

**Alexandria Symphony Orchestra: New World Symphony “Going**

**Home” featuring Stephen Seifert, Mountain Dulcimer.** 3 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, Alexandria. Sweet tones of Appalachia imbue Conni Ellisor’s concerto for mountain dulcimer featuring Stephen Seifert. America’s beauty and diversity inspired Czech composer Antonín Dvořák’s New World Symphony. The program opens with a surprise guest artist. Saturday concert attendees are invited to the pre-concert talk with Maestro Ross at 6:30 p.m. in the Terrace section. Adults: \$20-\$89; Students: \$15; Youth: \$5.

#### SATURDAY/NOV. 18

**61st Holiday Shop.** 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. At Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Artisan vendors of many styles and mediums, plus baked and canned goods, jewelry, household collectibles, lunch, quilt raffle. Visit [www.mvuc.org](http://www.mvuc.org).

#### THE BIRCHMERE

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

#### OCTOBER

Wed. 25: Euge Groove \$45.00 (Rescheduled from 6/7/23)  
 Thu. 26: Mary Chapin Carpenter & Shawn Colvin \$129.50 SOLD OUT!  
 Fri. 27: Mary Chapin Carpenter & Shawn Colvin \$129.50 SOLD OUT!  
 Sat. 28: Mary Chapin Carpenter & Shawn Colvin \$129.50 SOLD OUT!  
 Sun. 29: Tom Paxton & The DonJuans and John McCutcheon \$45.00



Bird Indigo, Mixed Media on Canvas framed 14 x 12

## Painter Sees World through Prismatic Lens of Autism

Nepenthe Gallery will feature the artwork of Lee Jaworek, at their weekly ART+WINE+CHEESE event on Thursday, Nov. 9 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Lee Jaworek, who calls his art Artism, is a painter who sees the world through the prismatic lens of Autism. As a young artist with Autism, he challenges himself daily to create works that depict the triumphs and the beauty of the world around him.



Painter Lee Jaworek



Rainbow Village, Giclée Print, framed 21 x 17

Jaworek uses vibrant colors; he says “each color is just as important as every other color.” His artwork has been exhibited in various galleries throughout the Washington metropolitan area and most recently his “Sunflower” was seen on CBS News Sunday Morning. To learn more about Lee Jaworek and his

artwork, visit Lee’s website <https://leejaworek.com/homepage>

This exhibit marks the first time Lee is selling so many of his original works rather than giclée prints. The exhibit will run from Nov. 9 to Nov. 22, 2023. [www.nepenthegallery.com](http://www.nepenthegallery.com).

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@MaryKimm

**Jeanne Theismann**  
[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@TheismannMedia

**Janet Barnett, John Bordner, Mark Mogle**  
Contributing Photographers  
[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Shirley Ruhe**  
Contributing Photographer and Writer  
[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Eden Brown, Bridgette Adu-Wadier, Glenda Booth**  
Contributing Writers  
[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Hope Nelson**  
Food Writer  
[hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com)  
@kitchenrecess

**Michael Pope**  
Senior Reporter  
[michaelleepope@gmail.com](mailto:michaelleepope@gmail.com)  
@michaelleepope

**ADVERTISING:**  
For advertising information  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)  
703-778-9431

**Debbie Funk**  
Disply Advertising/National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Classified & Employment Advertising**  
703-778-9431

**Publisher**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jverson@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jverson@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong  
**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**Editor Emeritus:**  
Mary Anne Weber

**CIRCULATION**  
**Circulation Manager:**  
Ann Oliver  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)

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# Zoning For Housing

FROM PAGE 3

such a rush to schedule final adoption a month from now on Nov. 28.

“We’re not opposed to zoning reform,” said Byrd. “We don’t know why this has to be fast tracked and why all these proposals have to be linked together and they can’t be separated and looked at individually.”

The suite of reforms currently under consideration include five zoning text amendments, two policy revisions and a handful of master plan amendments. It includes replacing the word “family” with “unit,” an approach designed to encourage smaller unit sizes and improve affordability. It also includes a parking provision designed to limit the number of parking spaces in transit corridors. City officials say they are eager to get started on a plan for increasing the supply of housing that dates back to before the pandemic.

“In 2019, we came to City Council and said there’s a list of 12 things we think we should do,” said Karl Moritz, planning director for the city. “It’ll be a very familiar list to all of you because it’s the same list that we’re talking about right now except that three of them were accomplished in the interim.”

**ARLINGTON RECENTLY** attempted a similar plan to ditch single-family zoning, although the effort ran into a buzzsaw of opposition. The debate featured prominently in the June Democratic primary, and candidates that supported the so-called “Missing Middle” proposal got more votes than the other candidates. But because Arlington was using a concept known as “single-transferrable vote,” one candidate who was opposed to the proposal got one of the two Democratic nominations in the process of ranked-choice voting.

“I ran for the Arlington County Board on the position that our ‘Missing Middle,’ which has gotten renamed ‘Expanded Housing Options’ because it wasn’t going down well,

**“We need to apply strict scrutiny on the zoning provisions we have and ensure that they do not have a disparate impact, particularly to ensure that some of the provisions are not segregating our communities.”**

— Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson

has just not been as complexly looked at as it needed to be,” said Susan Cunningham, currently a candidate for Arlington County Board who appeared in the Agenda Alexandria panel earlier this week. “I’ve been impressed at the complexity of [Alexandria’s] approach to not just pulling one lever but at least having conversations about the relative value of pulling different levers.”

Between now and the anticipated City Council vote on Nov. 28, city officials have scheduled a very large number of ways for people in the community to weigh in on the proposals. If elected leaders end up supporting the plan, it’ll be an action that was taken after hearing extensively from opponents of the plan. During one recent town hall, for example, City Council members defended themselves from engaging in “authoritarian” tactics — a charge that was a bit ironic considering that the discussion happened during a public hearing where city leaders were hearing from members of the community about their concerns.

“Of all the things that are involved in this, how do we think about all of them together,” asked Planning Commissioner Stephen Koenig, who was a panelist in the Agenda Alexandria discussion, “and then come up with what I personally consider is a very thoughtful and well-organized and quite moderate proposal that we have in front of us from staff that to me fulfills our long term history and tradition of consensus driven planning?”

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

Temple, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, VA. Submission Deadline: Friday, Oct. 27, 2023, by 5 p.m. Visit the Office of the Arts’ website. If questions about the New Project Residency Program email: arts@alexandriava.gov.

### COMMUNITY RE-ENTRY RESOURCE FAIR

On Nov. 1, a Community Re-Entry Resource Fair will be held at the Gerry Hyland Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Conference Room 221, in South County Alexandria. Vendors at the event include local, state, and national organizations that provide services to the re-entry community. The event hours are from 1-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. The fair is free and open to all adults who can benefit. Individuals can either walk in or

can pre-register at <https://reentry2023.eventbrite.com>.

During the event, attendees will connect with organizations to learn about the services they offer. Some of the programs featured at the fair include:

- Job training, educational, and employment programs
- Mental health peer support services
- State and Federal Government support programs

The goal of this event is to help individuals successfully reintegrate into the community to achieve their dreams. The event is brought to you by Recovery Program Solutions of Virginia (RPSV).

Organizations and employers interested in being a vendor at the event are welcome. For more information, email [mtaylor@recoveryprograms.us](mailto:mtaylor@recoveryprograms.us) or call (657) 222-4750. Rpsva.org

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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.

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## Forgive Me As I Wax Poetic



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If you are of the “Jewish persuasion” (“who persuaded you”?, as asked by Hawkeye Pierce in a long-ago M\*A\*S\*H episode), you’ve been lighting a memorial candle known as Yahrzeit candles (evidence suggests as long as 2,000 years ago) to honor the deceased your whole life – or your parents have, particularly for family members. The candles are lit at sundown on Yom Kippur (“Day of Atonement”) and as well on the deceased’s date of death on the Jewish calendar (presently year 5,784) cross-referenced to a corresponding date on the Gregorian calendar – with which we’re all familiar.

And for 14 years this Yom Kippur’s eve, I have been lighting two candles, one each for my father (deceased Dec. 2006) and mother (deceased Dec. 2008). This year I will be lighting three candles: father, mother and new this year: for my recently deceased brother Richard. (I still can’t get used to writing it, let alone saying it; he died Dec. 3rd last year, a few months after Yom Kippur.) And when the real-time anniversary date of his actual death occurs, (Dec. 3) it’s not exactly candle-appropriate to light the memorial candle on that date; as it happens, the proper date I’ll be lighting candles for Richard and for my mother (she also died on Dec. 3rd) will be Nov. 21.

I can remember growing up in my parents’ house with the Yahrzeit candles being lit every year on Yom Kippur and watching them flicker all night long and for the next 24 hours as they sat on the kitchen stove remembering/honoring their parents/my grandparents. But I can’t remember lighting my first Yahrzeit candle on the Yom Kippur following my father’s death in early Dec. 2006. I do imagine however, it was weighty, as he was my first parent to die. And likewise, when my widowed mother succumbed on Dec 3rd, 2008, in effect, making Richard and myself orphans. I imagine lighting two candles then is like how I feel lighting three today, except as I said last week, I have no backstop anymore. Moreover, being alive still without my older brother’s wit and wisdom is a position I never thought I’d be in – given my diagnosis, as I’ve described in previous columns. I’m alone now (Dina notwithstanding) and it makes the finality and inevitability of my own mortality even more obvious. I only wish there was someone close with whom I could share my feelings and anxieties. Oh, yeah, there used to be, but there isn’t anymore. That’s the problem. Damn. This makes you readers, like it or not, a resource for me. I talk/write, you listen. It could work. In fact, it probably already has worked for me for years; I was just too fortunate elsewhere to realize it. Not anymore. And it will be painfully obvious to me as I say the prayer, and then light three candles, one each for my mother, father and brother, all deceased – for the first time together. I don’t exactly have survivor’s guilt, but I have something, and it’s something I never thought I’d have, survivor’s remorse.

To me, survivor’s remorse’ means being sorry about surviving – without a hint of guilt. But rather with a generous heaping of being sorry to find yourself in a predicament you had never anticipated, but of course did nothing to cause. Nevertheless, the problem exists. It’s sort of like outkicking your punt coverage. The players get to where they’re going before all parties intended. Oddly enough, there are negative consequences to being first on the scene; just as there are unintended consequences to being last on the scene. And I’m last, and I’m running into unintended consequences every day. My go-to person is gone. My best friend is gone. My business advisor is gone. My hand-me-down giver is gone, and I’m left, to my wife Dina’s chagrin, with a very tired wardrobe with little chance of an upgrade. And as important as all these losses, I’ve learned that life indeed goes on. It may not mean that much to you, but if I ever thought about what my life would be like if my brother died before me; now I know. As Shakespeare would say: “It sucketh.” But as any lifelong member of Red Sox Nation knows there’s no time like the present when you’re down and out. There may be challenges ahead but there’s no going back.

This is just the kind of talk I could have with my brother if I was in any kind of funk. And invariably, with his encouragement and positive reinforcement, I would see the error of my ways and once again, take advantage of my opportunities. I feel better already. Thanks for listening.

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

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