Council approves phase two scooter pilot

Program to extend through 2020, contain sidewalk riding ban

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

Council voted unanimously to approve a phase II dockless e-scooter pilot program at its public hearing on Saturday. The phase II pilot, which will last from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2020, will feature a city-wide sidewalk ban for e-scooters in addition to changes in how scooter companies deploy and distribute devices. Council also voted to approve an ordinance that defines micromobility devices and the regulations around them in city code and a resolution that establishes an ad hoc scooter task force.

The vote on Saturday was the culmination of the city’s initial year-long pilot program, one that received criticism from many residents and support from riders. However, the public hearing brought few fireworks, as only eight public speakers showed up to offer their thoughts on the program.

Residents expressed concerns around pedestrian safety, a lack of enforcement by police and unsafe scooter rider behavior, including sidewalk riding and improper parking.

“Old Town Civic mem-

SEE SCOOTERS | 6

More traffic for Seminary Road?

Transurban, VDOT explore conversion of I-395 HOV ramp

BY MISSY SCHROTT

A potential change to Interstate 395’s High Occupancy Vehicle ramp onto Seminary Road could add more cars to an already congested major city roadway.

The proposed change, which is under consideration by Transurban and the Virginia Department of Transportation, would involve converting the south-facing ramp from I-395 to Seminary Road from an HOV exit to a High Occupancy

SEE SEMINARY | 15

Holiday Gift Guide on page 21

ALIVE! and well

Nonprofit celebrates 50 years of helping those in need

BY LUKE ANDERSON

There were few resources for Alexandrians living in poverty in the 1960s. At the time, there were no local institutions united in helping those who were less fortunate.

In 1968, poor people from across the country protested their living conditions by setting up camp on the National Mall as part of the Poor People’s Campaign, organized by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. before his assassination.

The next year, in May 1969, a group of concerned Alexandrians from several churches met to discuss how they could “re-emphasize the role, and renew the efforts, of the local churches in providing assistance to people in need.” The group formed a nonprofit organi-

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INSIDE

Small Business Spotlight
Smallcakes cupcake shop opens on Mount Vernon Avenue.

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City Creatives
Rosemary Covey explores death and life through wood carving.

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Ice & Lights

Nova Parks’ Ice & Lights Winter Village has been spreading holiday cheer at Cameron Run Regional Park since opening in November. Blake, Tyler and Blair Floryancic got in the spirit by posing with some festive light-up reindeer.
Christine Roland Garner
Wishing you a Joyous and Peaceful Holiday Season

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Fabulous 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath Dutch Colonial with off street parking. Totally renovated and expanded in 2018 with a wonderful open floor plan. Gourmet kitchen with quartz counters and island breakfast bar opens to the dining room and living room with French doors to a deep fenced yard. Main level half bath and study. Three upper level bedrooms including the Owner's suite with walk-in closet.

DEL RAY
$1,075,000 - Under Contract
Beautiful 4 bedroom (all upper level), 3 bath colonial with off street parking. Prime location just a short stroll to shopping & restaurants on “The Avenue” and Braddock METRO. Living room with gas fireplace and formal dining room. Eat-in kitchen with granite counters, 42” natural wood cabinetry and adjacent family room with abundant windows. Lower level features a recreation room, 3rd bath, laundry and storage rooms.

OLD TOWN
895,000 - Under Contract
Unique 2 bedroom, 2.5 bath historic property built in 1800, formerly a store, has been transformed into a beautiful home. Living room and dining room with gas fireplace and custom built-ins. Gourmet kitchen with adjoining family room. Upper level family room with gas fireplace and 2 bedrooms each with en suite baths. Charming brick patio and off street parking in community lot.

WATERGATE OF OLD TOWN
$695,000 - Under Contract
Awesome 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath end cond0/townhouse with 2 garage parking spaces located just steps from shopping and restaurants in north Old Town. Living room with fireplace and access to the patio. Dining room that is open to the renovated kitchen with granite counters, breakfast bar and SS appliances. Three upper level bedrooms with 2 updated baths including the Owner’s suite.

WAKEFIELD
$415,000 - Under Contract
Updated 3 bedroom, 2 bath townhouse with 3 finished levels and off street parking minutes to Old Town, Carlyle, Crystal City and D.C. Light filled rooms with hardwood floors on 2 levels. Kitchen with granite counters and SS appliances. Finished lower level with full bath and deep fenced yard with patio. Blocks to Shoppes of Foxchase.

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Herman Boone, coach of ‘Remember the Titans’ team, dies at 84

Herman Boone, the legendary football coach who led T.C. Williams High School’s football team to the 1971 state championship victory depicted in the film “Remember the Titans,” died on Wednesday morning, according to Alexandria City Public Schools. He was 84.

Boone served as head coach for T.C. Williams’ football team in 1971, after the integration of the school and during a period of intense racial tension in the city and high school.

Boone and his assistant coach Bill Yoast, who was white, worked together to unite the team, leading it undefeated to the Virginia state championship.

“He was one of those people that could be very inspirational, whether it be in the locker room at half time of a football game or whether it be in a P.E. classroom when kids are saying, ‘I don’t wanna do that,’” former T.C. Williams Principal John Porter said.

The Titans’ mantra of “One heartbeat” reverberated out into the community and the team’s success still serves as a symbol of unity and hope for T.C. Williams and the city.

“I think it was really a defining moment for the school and the community,” Porter said. “It was either gonna work or it wasn’t gonna work and, lord knows, it worked. The football program and the team really helped pull it together.”

The events of that season were later depicted in the film “Remember the Titans,” where Denzel Washington portrayed Boone.

This year, T.C. Williams has lost four members of the legendary 1971 Titans, including Boone. Julius Campbell, 65, captain of the team, died on Jan. 25; Yoast, 94, died on May 23; and Petey Jones, 65, fullback, died on July 1.

The Times will run a full obituary in the coming weeks.

-cmelloklein@alextimes.com

CORRECTION:
In the Dec. 12 article “Local audiologist wins national award,” the Times incorrectly used the term “hearing impaired” in place of the correct term, “hard of hearing.” The Times regrets the error.
WEEKLY BRIEFING

Del Ray holds annual Star Awards

The Del Ray Star Awards took place at Lena’s Wood-Fired Pizza & Tap on Monday. This year, the city employee award went to Bill Reagan, the business award went to Mike Anderson, the youth award went to Williams Jahns and the citizen award went to Amy Shopkorn. From left to right: Reagan, Gayle Reuter, Anderson, Jahns and Sue Kovalsky.

Confederate statue damaged by car crash

The city’s controversial Appomattax statue, which sits at the intersection of South Washington and Prince streets was struck by a car on Saturday, according to the Alexandria Police Department.

A driver crashed into the statue at about 2 a.m. on Saturday, Lt. Courtney Ballantine said in an emailed statement. The crash shifted the statue off its base and cracked a portion of the base.

Police notified the owners of the statue, the Daughters of the Confederacy.

Originally installed in 1889, the statue was meant to represent the end of conflict after the Civil War. But it has also served as a painful reminder of slavery for the city’s black residents.

Potential removal of the statue has been discussed for decades; however a 1998 law passed by the state legislature prohibits localities from changing war monuments.

City council established an ad hoc advisory group in 2015 to consider Confederate memorials and street names.

In 2016, council voted to ask permission from the state legislature to move the statue in front of The Lyceum, but no action was taken. In order to move the statue, city council would have to get approval from the Daughters of the Confederacy.

- cmelloklein@alextimes.com

Corey Smedley named permanent fire chief

City Manager Mark Jinks officially named Corey Smedley fire chief of the Alexandria Fire Department on Monday, according to a news release. Smedley is the first African American permanent fire chief in the city’s history.

Smedley has served as acting fire chief since former Chief Robert Dubé retired in June. He joined AFD as deputy fire chief of emergency management and homeland security in 2015, according to the release.

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Holy Cow debuts 'controversial' burger

Del Ray burger joint Holy Cow has managed to stuff some of the city’s biggest issues into its latest creation.

The restaurant’s current “Burger of the Moment” debuted on Dec. 12 with a mouthful of a name: “The Seminary Road-Dockless Scooter-Waterfront Development-Halal Butcher-Bike Lane.”

The burger itself packs grilled chicken breast, bacon, lettuce, tomato, pickled onion and, in a move owner Bill Blackburn said is more “controversial” than the name, Miracle Whip between two potato buns.

“It is a very controversial condiment. People love it or hate it. They feel very strongly about Miracle Whip,” Blackburn said.

The sandwich has lived up to the name: Patrons are fairly split, mainly on the use of Miracle Whip.

“That part of the sandwich is a challenge,” Councilor John Chapman said. “I am very limited in my condiment usage. Choosing to either use or taste Miracle Whip, since I was a little boy, I am not a huge fan.”

Ultimately, Blackburn said he hopes the joke points out how Alexandria is still a great place to live.

“If you can take a step back and look at the big picture, if the biggest problems we have in Alexandria are electric scooters and bicycle lanes, then things are pretty good in our city,” Blackburn said.

The burger is available at Holy Cow for $8.95.

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To operate in the city, each scooter company had to pay permit fees and surety bonds and sign a memorandum of understanding that outlined specific rules and regulations.

Of the seven companies, Bird was the only one to have a representative present on Saturday; however, the representative did not provide any comments during the public hearing.

Now that it’s approved, the phase II pilot program will provide staff with additional time to evaluate the impact of scooters as well as additional enforcement efforts, potential environmental effects and options for permanent licensing and regulation processes.

“That’s part of the reason why we want to implement a phase II pilot program, so we have time to see what’s happening with evolving technology and work with the companies and develop processes,” Hillary Orr, deputy director of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, said.

During a staff presentation, Katye North, mobility division chief, warned council that as of Jan. 1 state code allows scooter companies to operate without regulations in any locality that doesn’t have a pilot, permanent program or outright ban on scooters in place.

North also said that e-scooters are a regional challenge, one Alexandria would find difficult to avoid.

“All of our neighboring jurisdictions have some form of a scooter program, whether it’s an actual permanent program or a pilot program,” North said. “These are things that will be in the region and are likely to come to Alexandria one way or another.”

City staff first brought forth its proposal for a phase II pilot at council’s Nov. 26 legislative meeting. After receiving feedback from council, staff made some adjustments to its recommendation.

In response to council’s desire to see more equitable deployment throughout the city, the phase II pilot now requires scooter companies to deploy 15 percent of their fleets west of Quaker Lane and east of I-395, 10 percent west of I-395 and 5 percent in Arlandria.

Councilor Mo Seifeldein suggested the deployment numbers in these areas should be even higher.

Staff originally recommended a sidewalk ban on specific streets in Old Town and Del Ray; however, council voted to have a city-wide sidewalk riding ban during the phase II pilot.

The issues of sidewalk riding and the enforcement of scooter traffic violations remained pressing for community and council members on Saturday.

“We are aware and recognize that city sidewalks are being used for unintended purposes, such as electric scooters, which in our view presents a public safety hazard for the elderly,” Alan Dinsmore, a member of the Commission on Aging, said.

Councilor Canek Aguirre emphasized that rider and resident education should be expanded as staff and APD work to better police rider behavior.

“We really need to try and put together some type of education campaign because a lot of the issues we’re looking at can be avoided if people are properly aware of what the rules of the road are and how they should conduct themselves,” Aguirre said.

Staff has already organized a number of education and outreach initiatives, but there’s more work to be done with social media and in-app messaging, Orr said.

Several members of council directed staff to increase current efforts, like parking corrals and geofenced zones.
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She said the organization had lost some of its intimacy “due to several factors, particularly the availability of more public and private services to help with counseling and referral. In addition, the increase in the number of women [entering the workforce], as well as other demands on people’s time, have lessened volunteer participation.”

In the early ‘80s, ALIVE! faced cutbacks in public funding under the Reagan Administration, and demand for services dramatically increased. The organization had to cut down on how and to whom it provided assistance. The Child Development Center was forced to turn children away for the first time.

To minimize this, ALIVE! raised money by putting together fundraisers, such as a book sale and walkathon. The walkathon became an annual tradition benefiting the Child Development Center; this past May marked the 38th Annual StepALIVE! Walkathon.

ALIVE!’s executive director Jennifer Ayers said that the Child Development Center absorbs funds more than most of the other programs largely because it is a nationally accredited program with a highly qualified director and licensed teachers brought on as paid employees.

“Those kids really, I think, come out with an excellent Pre-K [education] — they’re ready to go,” Ayers said.

Within the last couple years, the organization has turned certain volunteer roles into paid positions. Ann Patterson was hired as the food program director in August after volunteering for several decades. Now that she is being paid to work for ALIVE!, she can afford to put all her energy into making improvements.

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With sincere thanks to my clients, family and friends for their ongoing support this year, I offer my best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2020.

Kristen Jones
City council ignores Dillon Rule in passing measure  
BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

City council unanimously voted to amend Alexandria’s human rights code to include protections for gender identity at Saturday’s public hearing. The amendment, originally proposed by Councilor Mo Seifeldein, now protects transgender and nonbinary residents from discrimination.

“At a time when so many people seek to divide us and spread messages of hate, it’s our responsibility to ensure that our LGBTQIA residents feel safe and affirmed within all spaces in our city,” Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker said.

Several residents spoke in support of the amendment during the public hearing, including Robin Anderson, a pastor at Commonwealth Baptist Church.

“It is good and it’s right that all Alexandrians, including those that are transgender or nonbinary, are safe from discrimination,” Anderson said. “Everybody deserves the security of knowing that they can’t be denied a job or housing, education, healthcare or a place to use the bathroom because of the pronouns that they use or who they love.”

Casey Pick, an Alexandria resident and senior fellow for advocacy and government affairs for the Trevor Project, spoke to the importance of the city’s human rights code and its impact on those in the LGBTQ community, particularly youth. The Trevor Project is a national organization that provides crisis intervention and suicide prevention services for LGBTQ youth.

According to a survey conducted by the Trevor Project of 54,000 transgender and nonbinary youth between the ages of 13 and 25, 78 percent of respondents reported they had been the target of discrimination due to their gender identity, Pick said. About 20 percent reported experiencing physical harm because of their gender identity.

Some residents were not supportive of the proposed amendment and claimed the city government has no authority to make such a change in a Dillon Rule state like Virginia. Under the Dillon Rule, local governments are limited by what the state government has granted them the authority to do.

“City council ultimately passed the amendment in 1988. Pepper said she asked then-mayor Jim Moran what would happen if the state were to punish the city in some way. “His answer was that we should move forward. This is how you make progress. You have to push the envelope and that is what we did. And they haven’t come for us yet,” Pepper said.

“It’s never too early to do the right thing,” Councilor John Chapman added. Localities have often had to lead the state in the past, Chapman said.

Seifeldein made a motion, seconded by Pepper, to adopt the amendment to the human rights code. Council unanimously voted to support the amendment.

“I’m very pleased that this atmosphere is entirely different than it was in the late ‘80s and that we all respect diversity,” Pepper said.
Council adopts RPP changes

Residents, Little Theatre of Alexandria continue to express concerns

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

City council approved a staff-recommended change to amend the city’s residential permit parking program during its public hearing on Saturday.

While city staff removed the most contentious provision — eliminating three-hour parking — from the recommendations, some speakers still opposed the remaining changes.

The RPP program regulates on-street parking for residents block-by-block and allows neighbors to determine restrictions for their block, with approval from the Traffic and Parking Board and city council.

The changes to the program were designed to protect residents and improve enforcement efforts, according to city staff. Two major changes include removing the 9 p.m. end time for parking restrictions and requiring drivers to move off of a block entirely after they exceed the restrictions on that block.

“Early on in the process we had identified, in direction from council, from Commission on Aging, from parking enforcement, that having more consistent restrictions would be beneficial to many groups,” Megan Oleynik, a transportation planner, said.

The most controversial change, which staff removed from its list of recommended changes prior to the hearing on Saturday, would have eliminated the three-hour parking option for non-permit holders in RPP districts. As of now, those without permits can park for three hours on some blocks and two hours on others, before having to move their cars. The proposed change would have made all three-hour zones into two-hour zones.

Despite the change, some residents and business owners said they were still worried about the impact certain other RPP adjustments could have on their communities.

Steve Milone, president of the Old Town Civic Association, voiced concern that the changes in the permit parking program would negatively affect Old Town residents.

The requirement for drivers to move their vehicle off a block entirely, instead of being able to move to an adjacent spot on the same block, could impact contractors, family and friends, Milone said.

Members from the Little Theatre of Alexandria, who have voiced opposition to the changes for months, said staff’s decision to eliminate the 9 p.m. end time for parking restrictions could impact the theater’s patrons and volunteers.

“I believe the proposed changes to parking in Old Town in the area of LTA … are a threat to this institution’s existence as well as a threat to the economic vitality of this part of Old Town,” Susan Boyd, a member of the LTA’s board of governors, said.

Prior to council’s approval, restrictions for non-resident parking in RPP districts could end at 5 p.m., 9 p.m., 11 p.m. or 2 a.m. Staff proposed removing the 9 p.m. option, as part of an effort to make enforcement more consistent. As part of the change, all zones that previously ended at 9 p.m. will now change to 11 p.m., meaning drivers — and LTA patrons — will have to worry about moving their cars for longer.

“Most of our shows are longer than two hours. Rushing out to move cars at intermission is unworkable, nor is it possible for show crew to leave the theater to do this,” Boyd said.

The decision to eliminate 9 p.m. end times was made based on the results of a community survey. Out of 500 RPP blocks, only 17 have a 9 p.m. end time and none of them are adjacent to the LTA, Oleynik said.

“If we were to remove 9 p.m. and go to 11 p.m., it simply provides additional protection for residents that live on those blocks because the parking restrictions would be in place for two hours longer,” Director of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services Yon Lambert said.

Mobility divisions chief Katye North clarified in November that the city will work with blocks that have a 9 p.m. end time to determine whether they would like to change to a 5 or 11 p.m. end time.

Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Park made a motion, seconded by Councilor Del Pepper, to approve the amendment. Council unanimously approved the amendment.

–cmellocks@alextimes.com

Most of our shows are longer than two hours. Rushing out to move cars at intermission is unworkable, nor is it possible for show crew to leave the theater to do this.”

– Susan Boyd, member, LTA board of governors
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Toll exit. Essentially, vehicles could pay to exit onto Seminary Road, regardless of how many passengers are in the vehicle, which could increase traffic on Seminary Road.

Seminary Road has already been a hot-button topic in recent months. The road has been undergoing repaving and restructuring since city council voted at the Sept. 14 public hearing to reduce a section of the road from four to two driving lanes, with a center turning lane. The vote also added bike lanes and pedestrian crossing signals.

The controversial topic has not fizzled since council’s tense 4-3 vote that followed 110 people speaking for and against the so-called “road diet.” The more than 1,000 members in a Facebook group called Alexandria Residents Against the Seminary Road Diet have been especially vocal about increased congestion on Seminary since the changes.

Allegedly inspired by the Facebook group – and much to the chagrin of her fellow councilors – Councilor Amy Jackson proposed that council reverse the decision during the Dec. 10 legislative meeting. Some councilors were upset at being asked to reconsider the recent decision, and all expressed dismay at the manner in which Jackson introduced it – during oral reports several hours into the meeting. Jackson ultimately withdrew her motion so it could be scheduled for a later legislative meeting.

On the other side of the issue, during the public discussion period at the beginning of council’s public hearing last Saturday, 14 people spoke in support of the changes that had been made to Seminary Road, while only three spoke against them.

In the midst of this Seminary Road drama, the public comment period for the potential HOV to HOT ramp shift is well underway. Despite citizen and resident input, the decision is ultimately up to the state, according to Bob Garbacz, division chief of Alexandria’s Department of Transportation and Environmental Services.

“It’s a VDOT roadway, so they will make the decision,” Garbacz said. “The mayor or council, they can adopt a resolution … but ultimately it’s [the state’s] decision.”

The ramp opened as an HOV exit three years ago. In October 2018, Transurban, the company managing the implementation of 1-395 express lanes in Northern Virginia, informed the city and VDOT that it was interested in converting the south-facing Seminary Road exit from HOV to HOT, according to the city website.

While the north-facing exit onto Seminary Road, which opened to HOT vehicles on Nov. 17, had always been intended to serve both HOV and HOT vehicles, the south-facing ramp was not supposed to shift, according to the city website.

“Our initial reaction was somewhat concerned because we had an agreement with VDOT that that ramp would be HOV-only,” Garbacz said. “We were concerned because VDOT seemed to be [going back] on their agreement.”

Garbacz said the agreement took place around 2012 when the city was contemplating the HOV ramp.

When asked about Transurban’s reasoning for requesting the change, Brent McKenzie, Transurban’s government relations and community outreach manager, listed various projected benefits.

“As we prepared for the opening of the 395 Express Lanes, we heard from people asking why this ramp wasn’t part of the conversion,” McKenzie said in an email. “With the city experiencing cut-through traffic problems, this is a logical change that will reduce congestion on the 395 regular lanes, make minor reductions in cut-through traffic on the local roads and it will improve safety by reducing the number of crashes at the Seminary Road/395 interchange.”

McKenzie, city representatives and VDOT representatives all declined to comment when asked how much money the HOT exit is projected to generate and where that money would go.

Transurban recently released findings from a study called the Interchange Modification Report on projected traffic changes that could result from the HOV to HOT change.

The report states that the south-facing HOV ramp onto Seminary Road is currently underutilized. If it were to...
small business spotlight

Smallcakes cupcake shop opens in Del Ray

Franchise founded by ‘Cupcake Wars’ alum
BY LUKE ANDERSON

Woman owned and operated, Smallcakes Cupcakery and Creamery has found a new sweet spot in Del Ray.

Smallcakes is a franchise founded in 2009 by Jeff Martin, who has appeared on Food Network’s “Cupcake Wars” series. Smallcakes has locations across the country, but the shop in Del Ray is the only one in Northern Virginia. It opened in October at 1506 Mt. Vernon Ave., beside Junction Bakery & Bistro. The opening was made official with a celebration on Nov. 16.

When owner Breanna Perez decided to pursue a career in baking, she chose to bypass the challenge of opening a business from scratch and opted to open a shop through a franchise. Perez said she was impressed that the Smallcakes franchise provided recipes and suggestions and the freedom to design her store and daily menus. After sampling its products at the Richmond location, she was sold.

Initially, Perez set up shop in Arlington’s Pentagon Row in July 2018 and operated at that location for a little more than a year. When the space on Mount Vernon Avenue became available, Perez felt it would be an even better spot and jumped on it. She said that when she first moved to Alexandria, Del Ray was one of her favorite hangout spots.

“I’ve always liked the feel and the offerings of what Del Ray has,” Perez said.

The new location has housed several businesses over the years, ranging from a daycare to a day spa. Because the building was already zoned for commercial operations, it required no renovations to accommodate a cupcake shop. Even better, it offered a bigger kitchen and more work space and storage than the Arlington location.

The large kitchen allowed Perez to add to the daily menu, which consists of 12 signature flavors. Smallcakes rotates 200 cupcake recipes throughout the year. Best-sellers include red velvet, strawberry and chocolate cream, which looks like a Hostess cupcake. Cupcakes are baked fresh every day.

Since the move, Perez has noticed a difference in cupcake preferences between Alexandria and Arlington. In Arlington, birthday cake and lemon drop flavors performed well, but “[Del Ray] seems to be a chocolate area. We’ll sell out of chocolate cupcakes before we sell out of vanilla,” Perez said.

Seasonal specials also seem to do well in Del Ray. Perez said the apple cider cupcake, one of November’s Saturday specials, sold out every time.

On top of the signature flavors, there are monthly specials and at least one daily special. On weekends, there are two daily specials, as well as vegan, gluten-free and...
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SMALLCAKES FROM 16

dairy-free options. Smallcakes also sells ice cream, push-pops, whoopie pies and cupcakes in a jar.

An added bonus for dog-friendly Del Ray, Smallcakes welcomes dogs too.

Nearby resident Lindsey Webster was pleased that her dogs, Baya and Eevee, were welcome inside the shop instead of staying out in the cold. Along with two cupcakes, she also bought each of her dogs a pupcake, specially made for dogs. Pupcakes are carrot cake cupcakes with peanut butter icing and topped with a milkbone.

Both Webster and her dogs seemed to enjoy their treats.

“It’s got a lot of flavor, but it’s not so heavy. Definitely worth sharing with two people though. I don’t think I could eat a whole one of these by myself,” said Webster, who took the cupcakes home to share with her husband.

Perez said that many people, including herself, are surprised by the cupcakes’ size at first.

“They are considered a jumbo-size cupcake, so it’s kind of like a small cake,” Perez said.

If the jumbo-size is too much, mini cupcakes can be made by special order. They are popular for birthdays, of-
Smallcakes’ pupcakes are smaller than the regular cupcakes and topped with a milkbone.

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Office parties and other large events, Perez said.
Smallcakes has gained new business in Alexandria but it’s also retained its Arlington patrons, many of whom are willing to drive the extra distance.
One regular who often pops in to pick up snacks for his family told Perez that the shop is in a “dangerous” location for him since it is now only five minutes from his house.
In the next year, Smallcakes aims to continue expanding its social media presence and get involved with pop-ups and the Del Ray farmer’s market. Most importantly, it intends to continue fulfilling its mission statement: “To use creative flavors, quality ingredients and friendly service to provide the finest cupcake experience worthy of returning and recommending.”
-landerson@alextimes.com

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2:00 and 4:00 pm Family Service with Children’s Sermon
6:00 and 10:00 pm (9:30 prelude) Holy Eucharist with Choir and Brass
Christmas Day | December 25 at 10:00 am (pajamas encouraged!)
Christmas Lessons and Carols | December 29 at 10:00 am
Epiphany Pageant & Extravaganza | Sunday, Jan. 5
9:00 am Pageant
10:00 am Intergenerational FunDay and Parade

www.stpaulsalexandria.com

PHOTO/LUKE ANDERSON
Mary Jane DeWeerd, 92, of Alexandria, passed away on Dec. 3 at Goodwin House Alexandria. Jane was a long-time resident of the Del Ray neighborhood.

Mary Jane DeWeerd was born on Aug. 28, 1927 in Lansing, Michigan to parents Harvey and Nellie DeWeerd. Jane received her M.A. and graduated with honors from Washington University, St Louis (Central Institute for the Deaf) in 1951, concentrating on speech, hearing and education for the deaf. She received her BA from the University of Missouri in 1949.

Special education was Jane’s career focus and passion. She was the chief project officer of the Early Childhood Section, Office of Special Education Programs, United States Department of Education in Washington D.C. from 1964 to 1984. In 1968, Jane administered a new program - The Handicapped Children’s Early Education Program, also known as The First Chance Network - that funded projects at the local, state and regional levels. In 1980, the HCEED program was included in the Education of Handicapped Act P.L. 91-230, which was the first free-standing statute written expressly for children with disabilities. Jane managed the services for children with disabilities for the Head Start Bureau, Department of Health and Human Services, from 1984 until 1992, when she retired. Jane also has several publications regarding early childhood special education.

Jane’s volunteer activities have included work with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, American Education Research Association, Children’s Defense Fund, the Advisory Committee on Special Education for the Alexandria Public Schools, the Duncan Library and the Chinquapin Community Gardens. She was among the early members of Del Ray Artisans, a nonprofit organization with the mission of promoting art for the benefit of artists and the community. Jane was always ready to help other people, especially those in financial need.

Jane was an extremely passionate democrat. She had a strong opinion about politics, and she participated in many political movements. She was passionate in supporting UNICEF, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, Inc.

Jane was an accomplished watercolor artist. Her love of painting and giving her paintings to friends will continue to enrich many lives. She was very fond of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, where she took many painting classes. She thoroughly enjoyed growing and arranging flowers. She had a unique way of presenting delicate flowers in a simple vase to brighten spirits. Jane would always bring a flower from her garden to whomever she was visiting, and her glass was always half full. She also enjoyed time with her friends and extended family. She loved entertaining. She was vibrant; always happy, positive, giving, and she truly blessed her family, friends and caregivers with her joyful and creative spirit.

Jane was preceded in death by her father, Harvey DeWeerd in 1979; her mother, Nellie DeWeerd in 1998; her sister, Evelyn Ewing in 2007; and her aunt, Christine DeWeerd in 2009.

She is survived by her two nieces, Julie Ewing-Christensen and her husband Dan Christensen of Fitchburg, Wisconsin; Karen Ewing of Lenexa, Kansas; and the many lifelong friends who became an extended family for Jane.

Obituary
Mary Jane DeWeerd

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The procrastinator’s guide to last-minute gifting

BY EILEEN ABBOTT

Even if you’re super organized, the busyness of the holiday season can make it challenging to remember everything. Just when you’re about to celebrate that you’ve shopped for everyone on your list, you realize you’ve missed a person or two.

But don’t worry — you won’t have to go far to find the perfect present. From Old Town to Del Ray to the West End, Alexandria merchants have you covered for those last-minute gifts, and the bonus is, you’ll be supporting local businesses, too, which keeps our city’s economy flourishing.

Here are some go-to recommendations for places you’ll enjoy visiting.

Lavender Moon Cupcakery

You’re running late — but no one will notice because you’ll be the life of the party when you show up with a few dozen cupcakes from Lavender Moon Cupcakery.

Located at 116 S. Royal St., Lavender Moon Cupcakery serves fresh, organic treats that are almost too pretty to eat.

“Lavender Moon Cupcakery is a chef-owned cupcakery. We source local ingredients from the farms, as well as using Polyface eggs and European butter,” owner Tammy Durkin said. “We bake every morning, always creating new seasonal flavors.”

Lavender Moon’s cupcakes are made with fresh, local ingredients.

SEE GIFT GUIDE
Cupcakes are $3 each or $30 for a dozen. Some of the favorite flavors offered include vanilla bean with lemon curd, pistachio and passion fruit, blackberry lemon and triple Belgian chocolate. “Our community is important to us,” Durkin said. “We participate in local fundraisers and offer a discount to our firefighters, police and military.”

You can find a daily list of available flavors on Lavender Moon Cupcakery’s Facebook page: www.facebook.com/lavendermooncupcakery.

**Early Times Emporium**

Experience that wonderful holiday spirit in a newly opened shop in Old Town. The Early family, who are long-time Alexandrians, opened the Early Times Emporium at 413 Cameron St. this summer.

Offering elegant, quality creations by local artisans, this gem of a mercantile shop with a colonial apothecary theme is also abundant with botanicals. You’ll definitely find that special gift you’ve been searching for – you may even want to treat yourself to a gift as you explore the delightful shop.

“For this holiday season, we expanded on our theme and created apothecary cocktail kits,” owner Susan Early said. “There are seven different kits available and all are totally customizable. The most popular has been the gingerbread old fashioned kit, which includes all materials to create these fabulous tipples – except for the spirits and the ice.”

The gingerbread old fashioned kit is $29 – or $36.99 with the optional ice sphere. For more details about the Early Times Emporium, visit earlytimesemporium.com.

**Popped! Republic**

When it’s winter and cold outside, and you just want to stay indoors under a cozy blanket, watch a movie and eat popcorn, Popped! Republic is the perfect place to get that last-minute gift for all those wonderful people you’ve appreciated throughout the year.

“Our popcorn is exceptional for a couple of reasons. We use real ingredients and take great care in producing great flavor and quality gourmet popcorn. It is fresh and tastes amazing,” owner Christina Stanley said.
Last Minute Gifts

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Flavors include capitol caramel popcorn, congressional cheddar and more. For a full list of available flavors, go to www.americasfavouritepopcorn.com/pages/alexandria-va.

“The large sampler is your choice of three flavors [three small bags] or the nine-flavor sampling option. Either choice is $39.99,” Stanley said. “We also offer our fan favorite bag of popcorn in a variety of flavors to enjoy and share with your friends and family. Prices range from $16.99 to $32.99.”

The best part about visiting in person is that Popped! Republic offers free samples, so you can try the flavors before purchasing. The shop is located at 2381 S. Dove St.

Fleurir Chocolates
A chocolate lover’s dream, Fleurir Chocolates has the perfect last-minute gift for the chocoholic on your list. Located at 110 S. Payne St., Fleurir Chocolates offers elegant chocolates that are both aesthetically pleasing and divinely delicious.

“We make everything that we sell by hand in small batches, so you are always getting the freshest, highest quality products,” owner Ashley Hubbard said. “For the holidays, I recommend our Christmas Box, which comes in either a nine- or 16-piece assortment with Christmas inspired flavors such as gingerbread, eggnog and hot cocoa.”

The nine-piece box is $24.95, and the 16-piece box is $38.95.

Hubbard suggested Fleurir’s Wine Pairing Bars, a set of five flavor-infused chocolate bars made specifically to pair with wines, as a hostess gift. The set goes for $16.95.

Find more details on Fleurir’s website: www.fleurirchocolates.com.

Penny Post
“Living in a digital age means we crave connection, and Penny Post is a champion for staying in touch with friends and loved ones through the written word,” Penny Post owner Amy Rutherford said.

If you’re a paper lover who loves to write or receive handwritten cards, you’ll be in heaven at Penny Post, located at 1201 King St. It’s the perfect place to find a gift that will be beloved by those who feel the same.

“People should visit Penny Post in person for the experience,” Rutherford said. “Paper is such a tactile thing that it should be felt and held to really get a sense of how wonderful it really is. Writing instruments are so personal that they should be tested for how they write and feel before buying. And, in my humble opinion, the store is quite lovely to behold.”

Fountain pens from Germany, notebooks from Japan, paper goods from France and cards from small makers throughout the U.S. are a small sampling of items displayed throughout the store.

Elegant 2020 planners are also available – “A perfect gift for a co-worker,” according to one customer.

Find more information at www.shoppennypost.com.

Greenstreet Gardens
The neighborhood holiday party is tonight, and you don’t know what to bring the hostess. Not to fear – Greenstreet Gardens at 1721 W. Braddock Rd. has you covered.

Holiday cheer abounds in this festive garden center overflowing with vibrant poinsettias and custom-made wreaths, both perfect hostess gifts. It’s also the perfect place for those who have procrastinated getting their Christmas trees.

“With trees ranging from four feet to 12 feet and different varieties such as noble fir, Turkish fir and more, you’re bound to find the perfect tree for your holiday,” Brianna Tomlinson, marketing and special events coordinator for Greenstreet Gardens, said.

SEE GIFT GUIDE | 24

Perfect stocking stuffers and unique hand crafted gifts abound.
915 King St, Alexandria
703-684-1435

PHOTO/GREENSTREET GARDENS

Vibrant red poinsettias from Greenstreet Gardens make a perfect hostess gift.

PHOTO/GREENSTREET GARDENS
GIFT GUIDE

Poinsettia plants range from $5.99 to $26 based on size. Christmas trees also vary in price depending on size.

“We treat all our plants with love, and we make sure all our customers go home with proper care information and supplies needed to keep their chosen plants healthy,” Tomlinson said.

For more information, go to greenstreetgardens.com/about-us/alexandria.

The Spice & Tea Exchange

Healthy and delicious to warm your body and spirit, freshly brewed hot teas from the Spice & Tea Exchange at 320 King St. are the perfect treat while you’re out holiday shopping. But if you linger and browse, you’re sure to find gifts for everyone on your list.

“Our gourmet gifts will delight the senses and tingle the soul,” manager Jessica Klug said.

The variety of teas include ginger turmeric herbal tea, Earl Grey creme tea, coconut Oolong tea and more.

For gifting, Klug recommends the Best of Alexandria Gift Set, which comes with three jars of the shop’s most popular spice blends, Vik’s Garlic Fix, Tuscany and Signature, for $34.95.

“Our Mulling Mix is a classic blend for mulling cider or wine,” Klug said. “It comes with a cotton bag to keep the spices together, perfectly proportioned for one quart of cider or one bottle of wine, and, if stored in the fridge, the blend can be re-used.”

Many of the gifts here are already wrapped and ready to go right under the tree. Visit www.spiceandtea.com for more details.

Cheesetique

What could be more fine than delectable cheese and wine? You can’t go wrong with a thoughtful gift from Cheesetique.

As you walk into the Del Ray shop and restaurant, located at 2411 Mt. Vernon Ave., you are welcomed by a cute front section with cooking items, beautiful cheeseboards – $39.99 for one option on display – cheese wires and grates, a variety of food-friendly wines and, of course, a carefully curated collection of cheese.

It’s a feast for the eyes to gaze at the selection of about 250 cheeses showcased in the

Photo/Penny Post

Penny Post offers a wealth of stationary, pens and other small gifts for the paper-lover in your life.
Last Minute Gifts

Baked lemon ricotta and Rosey Goat, a semi-firm goat cheese made more flavorful with dried rosemary, are both offered at $23.99 per pound. Dozens more range from about $19 to about $35 dollars a pound.


Torpedo Factory Art Center
There’s such a wonderful selection of art at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, it will be easy to find that special gift in no time.

“There’s such a wonderful selection of art at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, it will be easy to find that special gift in no time. “

Top: Handmade cheese wires and graters from Cheesetique make perfect last-minute gifts.
Bottom: The Best of Alexandria gift set from Spice & Tea Exchange includes a variety of spice blends.

One-of-a-kind gifts span from elegant sculptures to handmade scarves, hats and socks – perfect for keeping warm during the winter months.

“Gifts of art are always special,” Ross said. “They’re unique and perfect for the hard-to-shop-for people. Often handmade things are higher quality, ethically sourced and sometimes they can be personalized. Plus, there is community pride that comes with supporting artists based in the neighborhood.”

Visit the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 105 N. Union St.
If you don’t have time to run out and get a last-minute gift, you’re just a click away from making a special person on your list very happy. Everyone appreciates a delicious, relaxing meal from one of our area’s fine restaurants. Just head to Alexandria Restaurant Partners for a gift card with restaurant options that will please everyone: www.alexandriarestaurantpartners.com/gift-cards.

“Gift Cards to Alexandria Restaurant Partners make the perfect gift,” Emily Klassen, ARP’s event sales and catering director, said. “They’re available in any denomination and redeemable at all our Virginia and Florida locations. We’re also running a promotion through Jan. 1: When guests buy a $100 gift card, they get a complimentary $20 bonus card on us.”

Happy shopping, and happy holidays!

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Christmas Eve open
Life and death

Torpedo Factory artist explores beauty, death, the natural world in wood engraving

By Cody Mello-Klein

Art has never come easy to Rosemary Covey.

The long-time wood engraver and painter has spent the last 40 years at the Torpedo Factory with collections of her work on display around the world, yet the process of making her work hasn’t gotten easier. The challenge — the fear, “the edge,” in Covey’s words — is intrinsic to her work.

“You kind of have to skate this edge between being very uncomfortable and yet still being able to have the skills and be conscious yet almost unconscious at the same time,” Covey said. “As soon as you relax, the thing starts to not work. It can work, but it won’t have life to it.”

Given Covey’s preoccupation with death, fragility and the darker side of the natural world, the sentiment might seem at odds with her work, but her wood engravings and paintings come to life precisely because of that tension.

“My work has that duality to some extent,” Covey said. “It used to be what people always considered very dark with themes connecting to medicine and death and fragility. But out of that came a series of work that surprisingly had great, larger appeal.”

Covey was born in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1954, a time of intense social and political upheaval. She left the country at age 10 with her family because her father had been invited to pursue a Ph.D. in the U.S.

Covey’s formative memories of South Africa are still tinged with nostalgia — the memories of a child unaware of the time in which she was growing up, happy in the self-contained world of her family.

It’s also a nostalgia for the early days of her artistic curiosity. At five years old, Covey was expressing an interest in creative expression both in class and at home, where she worked on crafts with her grandmother.

“She had big boxes of scraps and we made things together all the time, so leaving South Africa was hard for me because she and I spent all our time together,” Covey said. “She was the biggest influence on my life ever.”

Covey and her family ended up moving to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where her father finished his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. The family then moved to Ashfield, Massachusetts, where Covey’s father had secured a position at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

In Ashfield, Covey’s passion for the arts continued to blossom. An art teacher at Williston Northampton School introduced her to print engraving at the age of 14; Covey returned years later, after college, to learn wood engraving from the same teacher.

COURTESY PHOTO

Rosemary Covey came to the Torpedo Factory at age 22 and has remained an artist at the art center for more than 40 years.

SEE COVEY
Covey was set on the path. She knew she wanted to make art, but, like many artists, she found barriers at every turn. Her parents warned her about the scary, impractical path of an artist. Collectors and artists openly questioned her ability at portfolio showings.

The cynics only strengthened Covey’s determination. Covey’s early career was defined by finding a way around the blockades that were thrown up around her, she said.

Covey’s parents refused to pay for her college education, so she left Cornell University after two years. At 18 years old, she married a man who helped support her artistic ambitions, but after divorcing at 21, Covey found herself in need of a way to support herself financially.

“Then I’m on my own at 22 and I have to make a living,” Covey said. “My parents were like, ‘Now you’re on your own.’ So, coming [to Alexandria] I started doing commissions and slowly it became my career and way of making a living.”

Covey immediately fell in love with Alexandria. The history and character of the city were captivating, and the detail of the streets was like catnip for a wood engraver, Covey said.

Wood engraving, at its most fundamental, involves carving an image into a block of wood, applying ink to the face of the block and pressing the ink onto a surface to leave an impression.

It’s a process that is easy to learn but difficult to master, partially because of the intense concentration it requires, Covey said.

“You can’t make a mistake and if you do, you have to incorporate it, which really creates that panic, nervous energy that I think propels work,” Covey said.

Prints created through wood engraving also need to be designed in reverse, since the print will be ultimately be a reverse image of the original design. The reverse engineering makes executing facial expressions difficult for many engravers, but Covey said her dyslexia helps.

“I have extreme dyslexia. I have problems with all kinds of simple tasks, but the reversing of things comes more naturally [to me] than it might [to others],” Covey said. “It’s very difficult to do facial expression and ... to get a likeness of any sort when you reverse it, but it helps to have dyslexia.”

Covey came to the Torpedo Factory in 1976, two years after it opened as an arts center. Although she can trace thematic patterns in her work all the way back to those early days, her work has evolved creatively and procedurally.

Death and fragility are still at the core of her work, but Covey has started to find new ways to explore themes that have captivated artists for centuries.

In collaboration with botanists, evolutionary biologists and entomologists, Covey now finds new inspiration in the natural world, the duality of decaying lifeforms and life under the microscope.

Her series called “Insects” came out of a residency at Blue Mountain Center in the Adirondacks. Combining printing and painting, Covey depicted the bodies of butterflies and dragonflies as beaten and bruised yet beautiful.

“One entomologist said, as a scientist, you see them under the microscope and they’re battered and beaten and their wings and their short life are scratched,” Covey said. “They’re not pristine. And what I had been noticing was that, as they lie dead, they strike these human poses.”

Another series of prints and paintings focused on...
fungi and lichens and the above ground beauty that masks monumental, monstrous rooted webs just below the surface, Covey said. “I don’t do it, when I work with a scientist, to be an illustrator or scientific illustrator,” Covey said. “[I’m] not interested in that at all. I’m interested in what they can tell me that sparks my visual imagination.”

Covey’s science-inspired and research-driven work hasn’t been limited to just insects and mushrooms. “David with Astrocytes (Brain Tumor 8)” was part of an intimate series of portraits that captured the eponymous David, a man Covey had met at her Torpedo Factory studio, in various stages of treatment for a brain tumor. “He looked really haunted. ... He’d had all this surgery and you could sort of see what happened behind his eyes, that something monumental had happened,” Covey said. “He hired me [and] I ended up working for him for three years to do a piece on his brain tumor experience.”

Collaboration has become an integral part of Covey’s process, whether it’s incorporating a partner’s scientific knowledge or pieces from fellow artists. “The best thing in the world is to find other people that are crazy about what they’re doing and that fits with what you’re doing,” Covey said.

Her process has changed even as she uses the same tools. Covey said she’s still driven by the same unknowable passion to create that drove her when she was alone at 22. “It’s the same exact thing and I still don’t know quite what it is,” Covey said. “You get the idea in your head and then you have to push it. And you’re hoping that you’re gonna push it and it’s going to be better than anything you ever did before.”

For Covey, the elusive “there” is a place she can’t stop working toward. “That’s the goal,” Covey said. “You hopefully never stop.”

You get the idea in your head and then you have to push it. And you’re hoping that you’re gonna push it and it’s going to be better than anything you ever did before.”

– Rosemary Covey
Villages: What a good neighbor would do

By Cele Garrett

Nearly 20 years ago, a group of folks in a well-known Boston neighborhood organized an informal network of volunteers to help their older neighbors. This idea expanded into a bigger operation. By 2003, the group was a fully formed nonprofit known as Beacon Hill Village. Today BHV serves a large swath of Boston — well beyond its original neighborhood.

The basic idea is this: A person joins BHV by paying an annual membership fee. Members can request help with handyman-type tasks, rides to appointments, light maintenance at home, technical support, pet sitting and many other things.

Beacon Hill Village's model garnered press attention from major news outlets, sparking interest in cities and towns across the country. Indeed, one day over breakfast at the Royal Restaurant, two gentlemen named Richard Moose and Ernie Lehmann pondered whether “this village thing” might work in Alexandria.

They joined forces with Dr. Judith Jones, a local gerontologist who had long studied the importance of socialization in older adults. These three recruited other like-minded people to explore the idea. This was the humble beginning of At Home in Alexandria, which opened its doors in 2011.

Today, each of the 271 operating villages across the country offers services based on the particular needs of its community. The core mission and function of these villages, however, is largely the same: to help members continue living an independent and vibrant life as they age. Villages provide practical, social and emotional support that can help make a member’s daily life more pleasant, allowing them to save their energy for the activities most important to them.

This practical support takes many forms. Essentially, villages offer the level of help a good neighbor would provide. Many AHA members enjoy a weekly trip to and from their salon. Several volunteers read regularly to members who have vision impairment. Often, a volunteer and member will do their grocery shopping together.

When a handrail needs tightening or heavy boxes need to be carted down from the attic, volunteers are up to the job. When someone’s printer isn’t getting along well with their computer, AHA can send a volunteer to tackle the issue. When members experience an unexpected event, AHA has a database of reliable and trustworthy service providers that have come recommended by members and volunteers.

It’s difficult to sum up the scope of support a village can provide. A village is not merely a service; it’s a true community. AHA’s village of neighbors watch out for one another and are there to lend a sympathetic ear.

A couple of volunteers once put together a photo slide show for a member’s celebration of life service. Volunteers often have helped members with downsizing and moving to another home.

On several occasions, AHA volunteers have recognized scams toward members and have been able to intervene and stop the problem.

Each member’s expectations and interests vary. A village provides as much or as little as each member needs.

For many people, the social engagement that a village can offer has been one of the most satisfying aspects of village membership. Several members do not have family close by, so they gather together and share Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner together. One AHA member, Jane, hit it off with a newer member, Mary Jayne, and invited Mary Jayne to join her long-standing book club. Another two members who met through AHA, Mary Ann and Sandy, are taking a trip together to Quebec.

Whether it’s At Home in Alexandria, Mt. Vernon at Home, Arlington Neighborhood Village, Dupont Circle Village, Silver Spring Village, Capitol Hill Village or any of the many village organizations, this grassroots movement evolved because we all want to live a full life as we age, and we want to support our friends who wish for the same. This is what makes a community. And, it’s just the kind of thing a good neighbor would do.

Cele Garrett is the executive director for At Home in Alexandria.
DECEMBER 20

CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS AT MOUNT VERNON Join Mount Vernon for an evening of family-friendly fun and fireworks choreographed to holiday music. Take a stroll through the estate while being serenaded by local choirs and visit with re-enactors from the First Virginia Regiment. Martha Washington will also be on site to greet holiday guests. Keep toasty by warming up by a bonfire, enjoying some hot chocolate or cider or visiting the Museum and Education Center.

Time: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Location: 3200 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway
Information: www.mountvernon.org

“CREATURE COMFORTS” ART EXHIBIT The “Creature Comforts” art exhibit at VCA Alexandria through July 6 features artwork of animals by Del Ray Artisans members. Showcasing animals that lift and fill members’ hearts is a popular theme at VCA Alexandria and coincides with the winter holiday season in which creature comforts of all types are appreciated.

The exhibit runs through Jan. 26.
Time: Thursdays from noon to 6 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from noon to 9 p.m., Sundays from noon to 6 p.m.
Location: 2660 Duke St.
Information: www.delrayartisans.org/exhibits

DECEMBER 21

ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOW Come celebrate the season with a cappella vocal harmony. The Alexandria Harmonizers, the area’s premiere a cappella chorus, present their annual holiday show: “The Secret of Christmas.” In addition to the award-winning Harmonizers, the show features a smaller ensemble and a new quartet, Better Together. It’s a great addition to the holiday season that is fun, moving and suitable for the entire family.

Time: 7 to 9 p.m.
Location: Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Dr.
Information: www.harmonizers.org

DECEMBER 22

CHRISTMAS WITH THE RAT PACK A toast to the original Rat Pack, “Rat Pack Together Again,” takes listeners on a musical journey featuring the greatest hits from the legendary Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr. This production will treat listeners to Sinatra classics including, “Come Fly With Me” and “My Way,” Dino’s great songs like, “Everybody Loves Somebody” and “That’s Amore!” and “Mr. Bojangles” and “Candy Man” from the dynamic Sammy Davis Jr.

Time: 7 to 9 p.m.
Location: The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave.
Information: www.thecarlyleclub.com

DECEMBER 23

BENEFIT RECITAL FOR SOME Join The Lyceum for an afternoon of music with international artists Rachelle Hunt, violin, and Katie Terrill, cello. The program includes works by Mozart, Beethoven, Halvorsen and a new work by Mark Boden commissioned by the artists. The suggested donation is $20, and all proceeds will benefit So Others Might Eat.

Time: 3 to 4 p.m.
Location: The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.
Information: www.eventbrite.com/e/some-benefit-recital-tickets-75172251497aff=eprofsaved

CONTEMPORARY FLUTE AND GUITAR PERFORMANCE MIN, a contemporary flute and guitar duo, makes its highly-anticipated winter season return to the Athenaeum with a varied program that includes many beloved holiday classics. Flutist Sais Kamalidin and guitarist extraordinaire Rick Peralta comprise one of the few remaining, regularly performing, professional flute and guitar duos in this part of the country.

Time: 2 to 3 p.m.
Location: The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.
Information: www.nvfaa.org

DECEMBER 24

WATERSKIING SANTA Now in its 34th year, this favorite D.C.-area Christmas Eve event returns to Old Town. Gather along historic Alexandria’s Potomac River waterfront for a spectacular show by Waterskiing Santa and his merry crew. The prime viewing area is Waterfront Park, with more great views from the Alexandria City Marina, Founders Park and Point Lumley Park. Come early to see the jet ski pre-show.

Time: 1 p.m.
Location: Alexandria waterfront
Information: www.waterskiingsanta.com

DECEMBER 27

CHARLES ESTEN AT THE BIRCHMERE See Charles Esten on tour with Taylor Noelle this fall at The Birchmere. Esten is an American actor, singer and comedian, best known for his role as Deacon Claybourne on the TV series “Nashville.” He previously appeared on the improvisation show “Whose Line Is It Anyway?” regularly between 1999 and 2005.

Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave.
Information: www.birchmere.com

NEW YEAR’S EVE AT CAFÉ 44 Ring in 2020 at Café 44’s Annual New Year’s Eve Party. The Great Gatsby-themed celebration will be in full swing with a live streaming of the ball drop, champagne toast and fireworks over the Potomac at midnight.

Time: 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
Location: 44 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 401
Information: www.cafe44.com

25TH ANNUAL FIRST NIGHT ALEXANDRIA Celebrating 25 years, First Night Alexandria, an annual New Year’s Eve live music and performing arts festival and the largest New Year’s Eve party in the D.C. region that is safe and fun for the entire family, returns to Old Town. Enjoy music ranging from country to Caribbean, rock to reggae, jazz to swing, folk to acapella or comedy and magic shows. Then, gather with family and friends and enjoy a fantastic fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight.

Time: 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Location: Old Town
Information: www.firstnightalexandria.org

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Decking your hall for the season

BY ELAINE MARKOUTSAS

For serious all-out holiday decor enthusiasts, planning begins well before Thanksgiving. There’s a camp that subscribes to ritual, repeating decorations with favorite ornaments, tree toppers and even wreath styles that have been part of family traditions. Then there are those who view the yearly exercise with an eye for something different, like kooky lime and orange ornaments in unusual shapes.

Jennifer Perkins relates. She is crazy for mod seasonal decorations and shows her love at Christmas with about 100 trees displayed in her Austin, Texas home. Many, you might guess, are of the tabletop variety. The blogger and DIY stylist, who has appeared on HGTV and the DIY Network, is well-known for her craving for color and offbeat takes on holiday decor. Her recent favorites are the neon yellow trees in her ’60s-inspired living room. It all started with a trip to the Salvation Army last November.

“I fell in love with this floral-printed couch,” Perkins said. “It was so goofy, I had to have it. I took out all the furniture and re-arranged the whole room, with Christmas trees around that couch, decorating with emerald green ornaments. Christmas should be fun and whimsical.”

There is nothing like Nat King Cole crooning ‘The Christmas Song’ to give us the warm and fuzzies. But one lyric, “Everyone knows a turkey and some mistletoe/ Help to make the season bright” has new meaning when it comes to today’s holiday decor. While the seasonal classic combo of red and green still prevails, though sometimes nuanced, vivid hues have become a part of the conversation.

Neiman Marcus and Horchow consider modern brights one of five major decor collections to create a holiday haven, describing the look as “fresh, fanciful and full of joy.” Brands like Cody Foster and Co., Mackenzie-Childs and Kim Seybert all deliver. At Anthropologie, many of the pop-y colors are embraced in decorations with a handcrafted look. A fluffy pompom wreath composed of colorful yarns is especially dramatic on a vivid coral door.

In addition to more mainstream sources, Pinterest is full of ideas, and posts on blogs and even retail websites feature modern brights as well as candy-colored pastels, some in combinations reminiscent of the macaron palette from the French confectionary Laduree. Perkins actually is a brand ambassador for Treetopia, where you can find yellow, orange, pink, red and blue trees in addition to patterned offerings. Also high on Perkins’ list is Glitterville Studios, another rich source for stylish handcrafted decor by Stephen Brown of Knoxville, Tennessee. You can even purchase his how-to, ‘Glitterville’s Handmade Christmas; A Glittered Guide for Whimsical Crafting’ on Amazon for $24.99. A set of Brown’s patterned hand-painted gift boxes graced the cover of Oprah magazine three years ago.

Kara Whitten also is a cheerleader for brights. Her Austin, Texas living room tree last year was pink flocked and decked with red-and-white candy-striped ribbon, with supersized ornaments in pinks and aqua for her mantel.

Planning to spruce up your home’s interior this year or next?

Call us now for a FREE estimate, and take 10% off if the work is performed between December 2019 and March 2020.

703-684-7702
techpainting.com
Recently updated custom colonial with attached garage

This home was built by a prominent builder in 1948 as his personal residence. It features custom appointments throughout. The home has generous room sizes with tall ceilings, custom built-ins, three fireplaces, hardwood floors on two levels and replacement windows throughout. The gourmet eat-in kitchen and family room have access to a fenced yard with a patio and outdoor fireplace. The main level has a study that could be converted into a fifth bedroom. The upper level has four bedrooms and three full baths, including the owner's suite, which has a new luxury bath and walk-in closet. The lower level has a recreation room, full bath, workout room and storage space.

**AT A GLANCE**

| Location: 830 W. Braddock Road |
| Neighborhood: Braddock Heights |
| Price: $1,449,000 |
| Bedrooms: 5 |
| Baths: 4.5 |
| Interior: 4,636 sq. ft. |
| Lot: 9,315 sq. ft. |
| Year built: 1948 |
| Contact: Christine Garner |

Christine Garner 703-587-4855 christinegarner.com

**Left:** This custom colonial has a side loading attached garage. **Right:** The home has a gourmet eat-in kitchen with SS appliances, granite countertops and abundant cabinet space.

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Our View

ALIVE! embodies our best

When members from a handful of churches in Alexandria gathered in May 1969 to discuss how they might work together to help low-income city residents, they likely didn’t envision just how important the organization they formed — ALIVE! — would become.

“ALIVE! is the closest thing we have to an essential organization in our city,” Mayor Justin Wilson said last month when city council issued a proclamation praising ALIVE! for 50 years of feeding and serving low-income Alexandrians.

We agree. Nothing embodies the giving spirit of the holidays better than ALIVE!

Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically! now encompasses 42 member congregations — not just churches, but also the city’s two synagogues.

Its core mission from the start has been feeding the hungry. The ALIVE! food pantry and food distributions have helped thousands of Alexandria families eat when they might otherwise have gone without food. ALIVE! dispenses 44,000 tons of food per year.

What the casual observer might not realize, though, is that ALIVE! does much more. ALIVE! House, started in 1972, is the oldest operating transitional shelter for women in Virginia, while ALIVE!’s Child Development Center is a full-day, year-round nationally accredited child-care facility for children ages three to five.

In addition, ALIVE! provides emergency monetary assistance for medical and other unforeseen needs, and also runs furniture and houseware distribution programs. To donate to or volunteer at ALIVE!, or to utilize the organization’s programs, visit alive-inc.org.

Alexandria has long been known as a generous, philanthropic city. Along with organizations like ALIVE!, that reputation comes from people like Del Ray’s Pat Miller, Gayle Reuter, Jen Walker and Bill Blackburn, who continually strive to build community in Alexandria. They hold frequent events that gather people together and help organize fundraisers for individuals and businesses that have suffered misfortune.

Boyd Walker’s letter on the facing page is another example of how an ad hoc community can build up around a particular need, in this case a homeless man who wound up loved and supported by many.

Helping others means being open to seeing need and being willing to sometimes go beyond our comfort zones in responding to that need. It can also mean writing a check, and monetary contributions are important because all organizations and projects need funding. Sometimes people have money but not time to spare.

Walker’s letter is also a reminder that giving and receiving help is not a Republican or Democratic, but a human, endeavor. Perhaps this holiday season we all need to put aside our anger over President Donald Trump and congress and over Seminary Road and the Potomac Yard Metro.

Can we, even for a season, focus on unity and reconciliation rather than fueling our anger and resentment? There’s actually much to connect even those on opposite sides of the political divide — such as our city, our country and our commitment to freedom and justice.

And if nothing else, Walker’s letter is a reminder that, at the core, we are united by our humanity.

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Opinion

“Where the press is free and every man is able to read, all is safe.”

- Thomas Jefferson

Council overreach and the Dillon rule

To the editor:

“We can’t do this again,” Mayor Justin Wilson proclaimed at the end of September’s city council public hearing on the Seminary Road Diet.

He might as well have said, “Je suis le chef d’etat; vous êtes les hoi polloi,” or “I’m in charge here; you’re merely the unwashed masses.” In other words, he can’t bear sitting through hours of city council meetings listening to residents’ carping, but he seems far less concerned about residents who have to sit in traffic on Seminary Road.

At its Dec. 14 session, city council added gender identity and transgender status to its human rights ordinance despite not having the legal authority to do so due to Dillon’s Rule, which reserves such decisions for the state legislature.

Instead of waiting a year for the legislature — now under liberal control thanks in part to huge amounts of funding LGBTQ groups invested — to frame the format LGBTQ rights would take in Virginia, city council chose this popular cause to overstep its powers, surely hoping that beneficiaries will reciprocate with political support for city council’s overreach on land use issues and in other more mundane arenas.

Councilor Del Pepper explained that Dillon’s Rule came up three decades ago when they added sexual orientation to the city’s human rights ordinance. Then there was concern about repercussions from Richmond, but none materialized. City hall’s stark message is that it will, boldly and openly, overstep its power and dare Richmond to stop it. Imagine how such a city hall will treat its own residents.

During this time, Republicans held the attorney general’s office for 24 straight years and did nothing about the Alexandria city council’s violation of the Dillon rule. Former Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli was more interested in a fishing expedition against state university climate scientists than in Alexandria’s city council extending the term of office in 2009 after the election had already been held.

No one should be surprised to see Republican vote shares in Alexandria or Northern Virginia continue to drop, because folks have figured out that the Republicans do not care about us and will not protect us from the Democrats’ abuses.

-Dino Drudi, Alexandria

Your Views

The opinions expressed in letters and columns are those of the writers only and do not reflect the views, nor receive the endorsement, of the Alexandria Times.
United by our humanity

To the editor:

A few weeks ago, a friend I knew for many years died. He was a character, and looked a little like a lost member of ZZ Top. Like Johnny Cash, he always dressed in black. He did odd jobs around the neighborhood and never drank. He was a good listener but had his own opinions. He always knew best, and sometimes this rubbed people the wrong way, and they stopped trying to help him. But he had a lot of friends.

For years he did not want to take handouts, but wanted to work. He knew bricklaying and did great work, even though he might spend more time discussing how it should be done than doing it. He once suggested digging a trench across my basement after noticing it was flooded, but thankfully before I let him rip up the concrete, I had my sump pump checked and learned that it needed to be replaced, not the line beneath the concrete floor.

One of the last times I paid him money to sweep the steps to the same basement, he took the money and said he could come back in a couple days to do the work. In retrospect, he was probably hungry.

As you might guess, my friend was homeless. He wasn’t entirely homeless, as one of his closest friends let him build a shed in her backyard with plywood another friend gave him. A neighbor next door let him use an outlet for a heater and the TV another friend gave him.

He did work with a wheelbarrow one friend gave him and used tools another friend took him to Home Depot to buy. For years, he used the laundry room in my basement, sometimes to sleep in on cold nights. The tenants in my apartment were the ones who asked if it was OK if he slept downstairs.

Unfortunately, our friend John White died, reportedly of heart failure and cellulitis that prevented him from taking some of the medications he needed. At his memorial service, which we held at the Wine Gallery on Patrick Street, we learned how yet another friend from Sugar House had gotten him to quit smoking, and that they had discovered he was Amish from near Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

A local law office helped him get an identification. Police detectives are still searching for relatives. Local social services were not as helpful as the Alexandria Police Department. The week before he died, he was hallucinating and it was clear he probably had an undiagnosed mental illness, and it was police officers who tried to convince him to get help.

One of the employees at Misha’s told me how he had improved over the years, from being angry and holding a tinfoil covered piece of cardboard over his face so he could not be filmed by cell phones, to becoming a kinder person. I would like to think that was because of the community of support around him.

One of the officers who tried to help him came to the memorial service. We all thought we had not done enough for him but collectively we had helped him in many ways to survive, and if we had joined forces and known about each other we might have been able to do more. We should all think of others around us who need our help.

That is partly why I am telling this story. John White was born at home, home schooled, probably never finished school, left an abusive home life and had no family. He was a good person who cared for animals, nature and other people. He also could be prejudiced, especially against other homeless people, and he would not go to a shelter.

I think he showed that despite everything that divides us, and those who purposely try to divide us, there is always more that unites us, like our humanity. Something to think about this holiday season.

-Boyd Walker, Alexandria

Justice Matters
with Bryan Porter

English common law in Virginia’s code

One of my favorite sections of the Virginia Code is §1-200, which states in pertinent part, that “the common law of England, insofar that it is not repugnant to the Bill of Rights and Constitution, shall continue in full force within Virginia.”

The term “common law” refers to the ancient English tradition of establishing the law not through the enactment of statutes but through the decisions of judges in individual cases, written down for posterity and honored as binding precedent by tribunals through the legal doctrine of “stare decisis,” or “let the decision stand.”

This means that in a few unusual situations, glimmers of centuries-old English common law continue to shine through the criminal statutes of the commonwealth. Perhaps the best illustration is with the venerable criminal offenses of robbery and burglary. As I will explain in a moment, the two crimes are distinct but are often conflated for one another.

Robbery is among the oldest of recognized crimes, first established as an offense against the crown in the 12th-century reign of Henry II Plantagenet. A felony for more than 800 years, it remains a common law crime in Virginia.

Section §18.2-58 says, “If any person commit robbery … he shall be guilty of a felony.” Unlike almost every other criminal statute, the definition of robbery is omitted from the statute. To define what robbery is, we must look to precedents.

Sir William Blackstone, circa 1770, relied on these precedents in his famous “Commentaries,” in which he laid down the stricture of the English common law in one written resource. Blackstone defined robbery as “the felonious and forcible taking, from the person of another, of goods or money of any value … by force or by putting [the victim] in fear.” The elements of robbery have remained largely unchanged and in force in Virginia hundreds of years after they were first settled upon.

Burglary, on the other hand, was defined by Blackstone as the “breaking and entering into a dwelling house during the nighttime, with the intent to commit a felony therein.” Blackstone specifically noted that a burglary must occur at night, “for in the daytime there is no burglary.”

Likewise, only a dwelling could be burglarized: other buildings not used for habitation could not be burgled. The fundamental elements of burglary remain unchanged and are reflected in §18.2-89 of the Code of Virginia.

As civilization evolved, however, the citizenry’s expectation of the protection of private property evolved as well, and soon society began deeming other offenses punishable as burglary. Because these new crimes required an expansion of common-law burglary through the enactment of statutes, they are collectively referred to as “statutory burglary.”

In Virginia, statutory burglary statutes have expanded the ambit of burglary to include, in some circumstances, daytime break-ins and entries into locations other than dwellings. Code §18.2-90, for example, criminalizes the nighttime break-in of any “building permanently affixed to realty, or any ship, vessel or river craft or any railroad car…”

Fictional cops often confuse robbery and burglary, using the terms interchangeably. In reality, they are different and distinct crimes. To put it plainly, buildings are burgled and people are robbed. A criminal who breaks into a bank and steals money while it is closed and the tellers are home for the evening has committed a bank burglary – not a bank robbery.

Other vestiges of the common law may be located through careful scrutiny. Code §18.2-57 makes a “simple assault

SEE PORTER | 36
The Germans of Alexandria, part two

Continuing our look at German immigrants who settled in the 500 block of King Street in the 19th century, we focus on the house next to the one owned by Michael German at 522-524 King St.

Adam Lynn Jr., an early mover and shaker in Alexandria in the beginning of the 19th century, once owned 518-520 King St. Lynn’s parents owned the property and built a bake house on the site before he inherited it.

Lynn was renowned for his craftsmanship in a variety of fields, including clock making, hardware and jewelry. But in 1822, he fell on hard times and had all of his possessions sold at auction.

The house came back into prominence in 1855 when it was purchased by Henry and Isaac Schwarz. Like their neighbors, the Schwarz brothers, who were immigrants from Bavaria, opened a dry goods store. Henry Schwarz was both one of the founding members of Beth El Hebrew Congregation and an officer of the Hebrew Literary Society.

The next decade brought significant turmoil in Alexandria as the Civil War consumed it. Isaac Schwarz served in the Confederate Infantry. At the end of the war, Henry left his brother and moved to Philadelphia.

It took a while, but Isaac eventually assembled a portfolio that Adam Lynn Jr. would have been proud of. In 1883, he bought his own house, 518-520 King St. The next year, he bought the house next door, 522-524, which had been owned by Michael German. In 1887, he bought two more properties on St. Asaph Street. The 1888 tax records list Isaac Schwarz in the top 2 percent of Alexandrians in terms of wealth. When he died in 1898, Isaac Schwarz willed the 518-520 King St. property to his son Samuel. The 522-524 King St. property was placed in a trust for his three daughters Clara, Edith and Fannie. Later, Edith married Charles Bendheim, and their son Leroy kept it in the family until the 1960s when it was sold to the Alexandria Regional Housing Authority for demolition during urban renewal.

Isaac Schwarz’s prominence in post-Civil War Alexandria and Leroy Bendheim’s political prominence in the mid-20th century are reminders of the quick acceptance German immigrants of Jewish descent received in Alexandria.

The fact that German immigrants of the Lutheran faith sold property to other German immigrants of the Jewish religion indicates that place of origin instead of religion might have been a bigger source of identity at the time. Immigrant groups that arrived later discovered that kind of acceptance more difficult.

Out of the Attic is provided by the Office of Historic Alexandria.

PORTER

FROM | 35
or an assault and battery” a criminal misdemeanor. The elements of those offenses, however, are supplied not by the Code but by the common law, which defines “assault and battery” as the “least touching of another’s person, willfully or in anger.” Assault, succinctly, is an attempted battery. Thus, a person is guilty of assault and battery if they punch, kick, push or spit on another person in an angry manner. However, words alone, no matter how angry, are never sufficient to constitute a battery.

The writer is Commonwealth’s Attorney for Alexandria.

Weekly Poll

Last Week

Council will consider the future of the city’s e-scooter program on Saturday. What outcome do you prefer?

66% Ban scooters in the city.
22% Adopt a phase II pilot to work out kinks in the program.
11% Make the current pilot program permanent.
1% I'm not sure.
Weekly Words

ACROSS
1. Bovine baby
5. Sound heard every second
9. Hipster beers, casually
13. Tree that giraffes snack on
19. Cambodia's continent
20. College with a namesake collar
21. Leak slowly
22. "Friends, ___, countrymen ..."
23. Measure of how often you get into scrapes?
26. Appear unexpectedly
27. Ball of yarn
28. Fleecy female
29. Standing order?
31. Video segments
33. Executed perfectly
35. Get closer to midnight
36. One may ask, "Paper or plastic?"
39. Shrewd
40. Lavish country home
42. Run from a crowd of Internet pests?
44. Hatcher who played Lois Lane
45. Like a limbo bar, eventually
48. Team trainer
49. Make fun of
50. Brooding creatures
51. Industry kingpin
52. Pout
53. Diver's affliction, with "the"
54. They have bridges and arches
55. Common collision cause in Canada
56. Cobb or caprese
58. Decorate
60. Bianca Andreescu's sport
61. Attire worn with slippers, briefly
64. Pasta from a biblical land?
65. Flake?
66. "Hmm ..."
67. Sports execs
68. Fitting concern
70. Salary limit
71. "Previously on ..." segment
72. Get closer to midnight
73. Tiny bit of sense
74. Bouncers at banks?
75. Ominous tarot card
76. Grub
78. Cracker spread
79. Tests in tubes, for short
80. Egg containers
81. What's happening
82. "I am," to Spartacus
83. "Why not!"
85. Without scruples
86. Oakland's region
87. It's thrown on the field
88. Budget listing
89. Savory flavor
91. Cab costs
92. Rx info
93. Humdrum
94. Places that often lack supermarkets
95. Thin slice
97. Lukewarm
98. Tuba relative
100. "Give it a shot!"
101. Dennis the Menace's dog
102. He often criticized the MPAA
103. Signaling that you're backing up, maybe
104. Identifies on Instagram
105. "Will you do the ___?"
106. Leaves no room for the en-tree, or a hint to the starred answers
107. 4G ___
108. Not a multiple of two
109. Done, slangily
110. Online periodicals
111. Quarreling
112. Government agents, briefly
113. Eliciting nervous laughs, perhaps
114. Adjusts to, as a thermostat
115. Prompt to leave a message
116. Lose color over time
117. Rx info

DOWN
1. Salary limit
2. Garage sale warning
3. Tiny bit of sense
4. Bouncers at banks?
5. More minuscule
6. "____ a girl!"
7. Manages to get by
8. Had down pat
9. "Gangnam Style" hitmaker
10. Signaling that you're backing up, maybe
11. "Seriously?"
12. Shopping binge
13. Curved paths
14. Captain with a mandolin in a 2001 film
15. Without scruples
16. "The District of Columbia, e.g."
17. Occupied
18. Quaking tree
24. ___ Fair (festival for female musicians)
25. Early 20th-century period in Harlem
30. Pre-Christmas calendar type
32. Ever-changing
34. Poet Sexton or Carson
36. Ozone destroyers, briefly
37. Baseball's Matty
38. Barking animal
39. Decked out
41. Form W-9 org.
43. Listen sympathetically
44. "Dawson's Creek" or "Pretty Little Liars"
46. Camel's refuge
47. Seize
50. One saving the day
51. Decision-maker's minus
53. Humdrum
54. Places that often lack supermarkets
55. Flat-topped landform
57. Circus routines
59. Paternity test material
60. Ending for nano- or bio-
61. Preferred strategy
62. Leaps for Misty Copeland
63. *Flake?
65. What snobbish people put on
66. "Hmm ..."
69. Sports execs
70. Bought before the official release
74. "Publish" alternative
76. Grub
78. Cracker spread
79. Tests in tubes, for short
80. Egg containers
82. "I am," to Spartacus
83. "Why not!"
84. Dr. Pepper competitor, once
86. Oakland's region
87. It's thrown on the field
88. Budget listing
89. Paternity test material
90. Particles made of a quark and an antiquark
91. Done, slangily
93. Cookout remnants
94. The hard stuff
96. Lite
97. Competitive and impatient
98. The hard stuff
99. (Over here!)
100. "Give it a shot!"
101. Dennis the Menace's dog
102. Give a makeover
103. Give a makeover
104. Identifies on Instagram
107. 4G ___
108. Not a multiple of two
109. Go blond, say

Solutions from last week

INGRAINED by Will Nediger, edited by David Steinberg

DEATH NOTICES

JULITA CHRISTIAN (85), of Alexandria, Dec. 6, 2019
SARAH C. GARDNER (93), formerly of Alexandria, Dec. 2, 2019
FRED J. GRIMANI (101), of Alexandria, Dec. 1, 2019
MICHAEL KORNHAUSER (86), of Alexandria, Dec. 9, 2019
BETTY LYTLE (89), of Alexandria, Dec. 5, 2019
MAEOLA PHIFER (79), of Alexandria, Dec. 5, 2019
SHIRLEY M. POLK (94), formerly of Alexandria, Dec. 15, 2019
FRANK VITALOS (80), of Alexandria, Dec. 11, 2019

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SHIRLEY M. POLK (94), formerly of Alexandria, Dec. 15, 2019
FRANK VITALOS (80), of Alexandria, Dec. 11, 2019
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BZA #2019-00015
2215 Russell Road
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a special exception to construct a one-story addition in the required front yard. If the request is granted, the Board of Zoning Appeals will be granting a special exception from section 12-102(A) of the zoning ordinance - relating to the physical enlargement of a non-complying structure; zoned: R-5/Single-Family.
Applicant: Laura Campbell

BZA #2019-00016
310 Commerce Street
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a variance to allow access for parking from the street rather than an alley or interior court; zoned: CD/ Commercial Downtown.
Applicant: Tim Foley

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Grecia. Moreno@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.3808, Virginia Relay 711.

LEGAL NOTICE

Board of Architectural Review
LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held by the Board of Architectural Review on WEDNESDAY, January 8, 2020 beginning at 7:00 PM in the City Hall Council Chambers, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 on the following applications:

BAR #2019-00241 OHAD
Request for new construction at 2901 Potomac Avenue (2405, 2501, 3701 Potomac Avenue, 3251 Potomac Avenue [Parcel ID 016.04-01-01], 700 Carpenter Road, 1702 and 1880 Potomac Greens Drive)
Applicants: City of Alexandria and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

BAR #2019-00509 OHAD
Request for alterations to previously approved partial demolition/capsulation at 430 North Union Street
Applicants: Kathy B. Hirsch & Jay Lawrence Hirsch

BAR #2019-00502 OHAD
Request for alterations to previously approved plans at 430 North Union Street
Applicants: Kathy B. Hirsch & Jay Lawrence Hirsch

BAR #2019-00517 PG
Request for alterations at 819 Oronoco Street
Applicants: Jacob & Stefanie Schwartz

BAR #2019-00531 OHAD
Request for capssulation at 1011 Duke Street
Applicant: Kumar Patel

BAR #2019-00530 OHAD
Request for alterations at 1011 Duke Street
Applicant: Kumar Patel

BAR #2019-00533 OHAD
Request for capssulation at 203 South Fairfax Street
Applicants: Bruce & Thelma Macgregor

BAR #2019-00532 OHAD
Request for alterations at 203 South Fairfax Street
Applicants: Bruce & Thelma Macgregor

BAR #2019-00528 PG
Request for new construction at 1417 Princess Street
Applicant: Ala Awadallah

Old and Historic Alexandria District (OHAD); Parker – Gray District (PG)

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Grecia. Moreno@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.3808, Virginia Relay 711.

Information about the above item(s) may be obtained from the Department of Planning & Zoning, City Hall, 301 King Street Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, or at 703.746.3833 www.alexandriava.gov/dockets.

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the program, to figure out what’s the best use,” Patterson said. “If we only have this much money, how can we serve the most people with the best food that they want in the most efficient location? Making those kinds of analyses has not been part of a lot of ALIVE!’s programs because it’s been an all-volunteer workforce.”

Patterson is in charge of Last Saturday, an end-of-the-month food distribution event at three different sites. As program director, she’s been advocating for every person to get the same type of food and implementing strategies to make the food selection more culturally appropriate.

From speaking with Hispanic clients, she learned that they often prefer to skip canned soups and vegetables and receive larger portions of foods more common in their culture. She now orders masa harina flour and an increased supply of rice and dried beans for distribution sites where she knows there is a higher Hispanic population.

On the other end of the spectrum, elderly clients prefer foods that are easier to prepare, Patterson noted. At the distribution site at Ladrey Senior Apartments on Wythe Street, she orders more canned soup, vegetables, cereal and shelf-stable milk.

Patterson said these strategies are more efficient than serving everyone the same food.

“If they don’t eat it, then it didn’t help at all,” she said. Volunteers Susan Pollack and Russ Koenig, who help with Last Saturday at Leonard “Chick” Armstrong Recreation Center on Reed Avenue, said that they have formed relationships with many clients who come for food each month.

“Part of the reason we do this at the end of the month is [because] we know that’s when people’s paychecks are running out. Rent’s been paid and this is the hardest time,” Koenig said.

“Rent’s just so high here and food is often the thing people would start to skim on,” Pollack added.

ALIVE! still has a real connection with the communities it serves and a huge impact on the city, Ayers said.

“There are 16,000 people in the city who are hungry and we try to get food to as many people as we can,” she said. “If we weren’t here — you know, we distribute 44,000 tons of food a year — what would those people do?”

At a legislative meeting last month, city council issued a proclamation acknowledging ALIVE!’s 50th anniversary.

“ALIVE! is the closest thing we have to an essential organization in our city,” Mayor Justin Wilson said. “You guys fill so many important needs for residents in need in our community, and we certainly appreciate you doing it. We look forward to celebrating another 50 years.”

—from alextimes.com

PHOTOS/LUKE ANDERSON

Left: Boxes of USDA certified food cover the tables inside the recreation center.

Right: ALIVE! recently began serving Torti masa harina flour to appeal to hispanic clients.

It’s not an overwhelmingly significant improvement. It’s a slight improvement based on the traffic study that we did.”

—Susan Shaw, megaprojects director, VDOT

open up to HOT vehicles, it would result in enhanced traffic flow along I-395 and “no adverse impacts to arterials and intersections,” according to the report.

“It’s not an overwhelming significant improvement. It’s a slight improvement based on the traffic study that we did,” Susan Shaw, megaprojects director for VDOT, said.

Shaw said the traffic study took the new Seminary Road configuration into consideration.

Following the release of the traffic report, Hillary Orr, deputy director of T&ES, issued an official city response to VDOT stating the city found no compelling reason for the conversion.

“Based on the results of the [Interchange Modification Report], the City finds no compelling reason to convert the Seminary ramp for ... HOV to HOT,” Orr wrote in the Dec. 6 response. “There are still many unknowns and the City does not believe the risk is worth the minimal benefit.”

In line with the city’s response, several residents have expressed concerns about the proposed change.

“With the south ramp, I think this is another case where we were told, ‘You have nothing to worry about,’ ... and then they say, ‘Well, actually, we’re gonna take a look at this,’” Alex Sargent, a resident who regularly travels on I-395 and Seminary Road, said. “I think right now there’s just a general distrust of the City of Alexandria – and maybe the state as well – with what they’re telling us we need to worry about and what we don’t.”

There was a community meeting in Alexandria detailing the findings of the traffic report on Dec. 9 that was attended by about 50 people, according to Michelle Holland, megaprojects communications manager for VDOT. The public input period is open through Dec. 31. To submit comments, email 395expresslanes@VDOT.virginia.gov.

Regardless of the city’s stance and resident input, the state has the final say. The Commonwealth Transportation Board, which is composed of 17 members appointed by the governor, will vote on the project after the public comment period closes, Shaw said.

“We’re just still in that information gathering phase, especially since we want to have a chance to have everybody comment,” Shaw said. “It does go through the end of the year, and we want to have a chance to review all of that in the context of the study that was done.”

If the Commonwealth Transportation Board ultimately chooses to convert the ramp to HOT, the change would be implemented in summer 2020, according to the project page on VDOT’s website.

—from alextimes.com
During the holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to our communities and to our clients. From our family to yours, we hope your holidays are filled with warmth and cheer.

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