

SSSAS boys' basketball shoots for playoffs

Team is 11-2 after win against Flint Hill

BY LUKE ANDERSON

Last year, the St. Stephen's and St. Agnes boys' varsity basketball team won the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association state tournament for the first time since 1990. This year, they're going for a repeat.

The Saints started off the 2019-2020 season strong with a winning streak at the

beginning of December. The team also dominated the annual Sleepy Thompson Tournament Dec. 5 through 7.

Later in the month, the team suffered two losses, coming up short against two of the top teams in D.C. The Saints fell to Gonzaga, 69-63, on Dec. 15 and lost to DeMatha, 72-63, on Dec. 29.

The new year brought a change of pace, the Saints redeeming themselves with

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COURTESYPHOTO

SSSAS senior Jamal Barnes in a game against St. Anne's-Belfield School in early December.

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Residents launch socially conscious coffee roaster Lambda Coffee.

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City Creatives

Del Ray potter Stephen Lally uses wood firing to meld form and function.

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Cheers to a new decade

First Night Alexandria, the city's annual family friendly New Year's Eve festival, celebrated its 25th anniversary last week. On Dec. 31, residents and visitors attended musical performances throughout Old Town before congregating at the waterfront to ring in 2020 with a midnight fireworks display.



PHOTO/MISHA ENRIQUEZ FOR VISIT ALEXANDRIA

City to buy Freedom House

Former slave trading headquarters went up for sale in October

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

The City of Alexandria announced that it plans to purchase Freedom House, the historic site of a former slave trading firm, on Monday.

The future of Freedom House, located at 1315 Duke St., has been up in the air since the Northern Virgin-

ia Urban League announced the site was for sale in October. With the city's announcement, the future is a bit brighter for the National Historic Landmark.

Freedom House served as the headquarters for a series of slave trading operations between 1828 and 1861, including Franklin and Armfield, one of the largest in the nation. It's estimated that about 50,000 enslaved adults and children

went through the Duke Street building on their way to slave markets farther south, according to a news release.

"I think what is unique about this building is that so many of our fellow Americans can trace their family history through that building, through ancestors that went through that building, were essentially marketed

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WEEKLY BRIEFING

City to host 2020 Housing Summit

The city is set to host its 2020 Housing Summit, a day-long examination of the future of housing in Alexandria, on Saturday, according to a news release.

As part of the summit, participants will re-examine the city's 2013 Housing Master Plan. Unanimously approved by city council on Dec. 14, 2013, the HMP established long-term principles, goals and strategies for the city to pursue in attempt-

ing to meet future affordable housing needs, according to the city website.

With the summit, the city aims to re-evaluate the direction of the HMP and address ongoing affordable housing challenges, according to the release. Participants will go on bus tours highlighting affordable housing developments throughout the city and learn more about affordable housing and community service organizations.

Discussion sessions will tackle the HMP, equity and potential regional partnerships, according to the release.

The 2020 Housing Summit takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Those interested in attending the summit can register at www.surveymonkey.com/r/NQHYRC9.

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Signing Day comes early

An early signing day event took place at T.C. Williams High School last month.

Titans Luke Wilson, Robert Longerbeam, Madeline Toaso and Shane Tucker celebrated years of hard work by formally committing to colleges for their individual sports.

Longerbeam, the varsity football quarterback who, this season, lead the Titans to their first playoff win in almost 30 years, signed on to play football at Rutgers University.

Another critical Titans football player, offensive lineman Wilson, signed on to play at the University of Rochester.



PHOTO/ON THE HUNT PHOTOGRAPHY

From left to right: Luke Wilson, Robert Longerbeam, Madeline Toaso and Shane Tucker.

Toaso, a star rower for both the T.C. rowing team and the Old Dominion Boat Club, signed to Oregon State University.

Tucker, a T.C. Williams varsity baseball pitcher, signed to New York Institute of Technology.

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School board approves 10-year plan

The Alexandria School Board approved a \$530.7 million 10-year Capital Improvement Program budget at a meeting on Dec. 19.

The plan includes the modernization of Douglas MacArthur Elementary

School, George Mason Elementary School, Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology and Matthew Maury Elementary School in the next 10 years.

The plan also includes \$158.2 million for the high

school project in fiscal years 2021 and 2022.

The school board's CIP budget will go before city council during council's budget process this spring. It is slated for a vote in May 2020.

-mschrott@alextimes.com



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Rico is ready for the new year! This Staffordshire terrier has already resolved to get more exercise (He loves a long walk), eat better (He hopes you have some treats), get some more sleep (18 hours a day is just NOT enough), and most importantly of all, find his new family!

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COURTESY PHOTO

SSSAS senior Chase Beasley shoots at a home game this season.

“ I feel like if we do that, then that’ll put us in the best situation to be successful down the stretch, if we just focus on one game at a time.”

– Mike Jones, SSSAS head coach

SSSAS

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undefeated the rest of the season.”

solid wins against Grace Brethren Christian School on Jan. 3 and perennial powerhouse Flint Hill School on Jan. 4. The win over Flint Hill was especially meaningful since SSSAS lost to them last year, according to head coach Mike Jones, who is now coaching his third season.

To reach their goals, the team is sticking to the same strategy that led them to victory last season: take it “one game at a time.”

With an 11-2 record, the team is now fully focused on the Interstate Athletic Conference, Jones said. At the beginning of each season, the players set goals both individually and as a team, and this year, all the boys said they wanted to win every tournament and championship they play, Jones said.

“That’s exactly our strategy,” Jones said. “I feel like if we do that, then that’ll put us in the best situation to be successful down the stretch, if we just focus on one game at a time.”

“We only had like three losses last year, and we have two now [this season],” sophomore guard Jeremiah Barnes said. “If we just keep playing good, ... we could go

Jones said the team has learned a lot from the games they’ve lost this season. The Saints are working hard to improve their offense — getting to the spots, covering space on the court and being ready to take shots when opportunities present themselves. Overall, Jones says he is happy with the team’s performance.

“I like the way our guards are playing,” Jones said. “I

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SSSAS

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like the way our bigs are coming off the bench and playing with a lot of energy and space on the floor. But defensively, that's what we really hang our hat on, where we can, you know, really try to impact the game and speed up the offensive team."

Jones said that seniors Jared Cross and Jamal Barnes have been playing exceptionally well. Cross is averaging 16 to 17 points per game and shooting 40 percent from three and 50 percent from two. Barnes is shooting right at 39 percent from the three-point line.

The Saints have managed some setbacks this year. Senior Xavier Lipscomb is just starting to get back to his old rhythm as he continues to recover from shin splints sustained last season. Several players have been dealing with nagging injuries or been out sick since the season started.

Fortunately, the team has 17 players, the most SSSAS has had in recent years. Out of the 17 players, 11 are seniors and many have at least one year of experience un-

“We [have] good energy on and off the court. ... It’s good effort right now. We’ve just got to keep going.”

– Tony Galdamez, senior, SSSAS

der their belts. Barnes and Lipscomb stand out, having been on the team since they were freshmen.

In addition to practicing as often as possible, the team is focusing on injury prevention and healing. For about 20 minutes after practice, players do stretches to increase their flexibility as well as relaxation techniques.

“We’ve been really trying to focus on just icing [the guys], stretching the guys, doing yoga – just making sure that we’re taking care of our bodies as well,” Jones said.

Players hope this will give them an advantage going forward, Jones said. However, now halfway through the season, the team is sure to face tough competition on

the road to the IAC.

“The IAC is challenging,” Jones said. “So you know, teams come in and play hard each and every night. [...] This is just a tough league top to bottom. You got to be mentally tough to play each and every game.”

“We [have] good energy on and off the court,” senior Tony Galdamez said. “It’s good effort right now. We’ve just got to keep going.”

The Saints’ home game against Landon High School this week, which was rescheduled from Tuesday to Wednesday due to inclement weather, took place after press time. As of press time, the Saints were 11-2 and ranked fifth in the state.

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Obituary

Hannah Margaret Lee

Hannah Margaret Lee passed away in her loving parents arms on Dec. 28, 2019. Despite her short time on Earth she was deeply loved and brought immense joy to those around her.



COURTESY PHOTO

Hannah was born on April 3, 2019 in Arlington, Virginia to Jim and Katie Lee, joining older brother, Ben. Hannah exuded happiness every day of her short life. She was happiest when she was playing with her big brother and couldn't help but squeal in delight when they were together. Even at a young age, Hannah was adventurous and fiercely independent. She loved to crawl, wave to people, and clap to music.

Hannah will be forever remembered and loved by her parents, her big brother, her grandparents, Bernie and Barbara Lee, Barbara Kennedy, and Mike Kennedy, and her aunts and uncle, Erin Brown, Bridget Kennedy, Tim and Jill Lee, and Kat Lee. She was predeceased by her uncle, Dan Brown. Hannah was adored and

will be missed by her five older cousins.

A wake in Hannah's honor will be held at the Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home on Friday, Jan. 10 from 4 to 7 p.m. Hannah's funeral will be held at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church starting at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 11. Hannah will be buried with her maternal great grandparents in Stonington, Connecticut.

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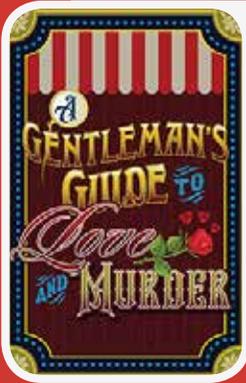
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small business spotlight

Local roaster Lambda Coffee heats up



COURTESY PHOTO

Shawna Vacca and Eve Freeman, partners in business and life, at their Lambda Coffee farmers market stand.

Queer-owned, socially conscious business launched in July 2019

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

For some, coffee is simply a morning pick-me-up; for others, it's a necessary and meaningful part of a daily ritual. But around this time of year, coffee drinkers everywhere try to hold off on indulging in what some would call an addiction.

Lambda Coffee, a new local coffee roaster, is sure to test some of those New Year's resolutions.

Partners Eve Freeman and Shawna Vacca, two Alexandria residents, started Lambda Coffee in July 2019, roasting beans out of their kitchen for friends and family. Now, they rent a space in a food incubator and sell at several Northern Virginia farmers' markets, including the Burke Farmers Market and Cascades Farmers Market.

The business is still in its infancy, but Freeman and Vacca have a firm philosophy for Lambda Coffee: to supply socially conscious, sustainable, ethically sourced and delicious coffee.

"It's kind of like civil rights activism. Your dollar is your vote and, in a sense, when you're voting for us, you're voting for a more equitable world, a fairer world," Vacca said. "In this political climate it's gotten to be more crucial to put your money where you want the world to go."

Two software engineers, Vacca and Freeman graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology a couple of years apart, before eventually finding one another through the alumni network and mutual friends.

"[Freeman] came to stay at my house during the lunar eclipse in Oregon [in 2017]," Vacca said. "I used to live in Oregon, and she came to stay

for a week, and we hung out the whole week and we're like, 'Oh, we've got something here.'"

Later that year, Vacca moved back to Alexandria to live with Freeman. It was here, not in Portland, that she started roasting coffee beans. Vacca was starting to explore green coffee, beans that haven't been roasted, because she liked decaf coffee, an expensive habit if one relies on buying roasted beans.

"We started roasting green beans and started roasting regular beans and decaf and we thought, 'Oh, this will make a nice Christmas present,'" Vacca said.

Like Freeman's first visit out to Oregon, Vacca knew they had something special on their hands. They both liked the process and taste of roasting their own beans, and before they knew it, the cou-

SEE LAMBDA

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small business spotlight

LAMBDA

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ple had a roaster, a website, a Facebook page and an online store. They officially launched the company in July.

Navigating through the pitfalls of starting a new business with little experience, Freeman and Vacca have learned new things about each other.

“She is conservative about growth, and I’m pushing and pushing,” Freeman said. “It’s actually really good to have that balance.”

In some ways, it’s helped the couple become closer, as they work to bring the business to life.

“We’re partners in life and in the business, so if something goes wrong, we’ve got each other,” Vacca said.

Vacca and Freeman started the business out of their kitchen with a tiny roaster. Before long, the demand of their customers and the tire-some blaring of their smoke alarm forced them to level up. They bought a bigger roaster – one that allows them to handle their order capacity and produce upward of 50 bags a week – and rented a space in Frontier Kitchen, a food incubator in Lorton.

Although they were both relatively educated coffee drinkers, Vacca and Freeman had a lot to learn. Wine has about 100 flavor compounds, but coffee, with nearly 800 flavor compounds, is much more complex, Freeman said.

The couple flew out to Portland for a week in August 2019 to go to coffee school at Café Bellissimo. They went through barista training, roaster training and business training and took additional roasting classes at Café Amore in Vienna, Virginia.

It became clear that a good roast means nothing without good beans, Vacca said.

“The biggest factor in

“We’re trying to do everything right. ...We’ve got compostable cups. One of our coffees is from a Café Feminino program, which is all woman owned and all woman operated.”

– Shawna Vacca, co-owner, Lambda Coffee

having a good coffee for us is in the bean,” Vacca said. “If we got a good bean, that forgives us sometimes on the roasting side.”

To that end, Vacca and Freeman have found three beans they feel confident selling. The beans are all medium to medium light roast, much to the chagrin of the many dark roast drinkers the couple has converted.

Lambda Coffee sells an Ethiopian coffee with notes of blueberry and lime, a Sumatran coffee with more complex flavors that contains notes of vanilla and pipe tobacco and a Columbian coffee with notes of red fruit, lemon and sweet honey. They plan to add a decaf to the mix soon. Each bag costs \$18.

For the couple, the ethical and sustainable qualities of the beans are just as important as the material and flavor qualities of the beans. Vacca and Freeman have pushed themselves to foster direct relationships with farmers and work with local suppliers that pay their farmers fairly.

“One thing we like to ensure was that the coffee was paid to the farmers well over fair trade,” Freeman said. “Fair trade is kind of a pretty low bar these days, unfortunately, but our suppliers have been transparent.”

“We’re trying to do everything right,” Vacca said. “We’ve got compostable cups. One of our coffees is from a Café Feminino program, which is all woman owned and all woman operated.”

Vacca and Freeman said they hope that Lambda’s socially conscious approach – the fact that it’s Queer-owned and donates money to LGBTQ organizations like Casa Ruby and Lambda Legal – draws in customers as well.

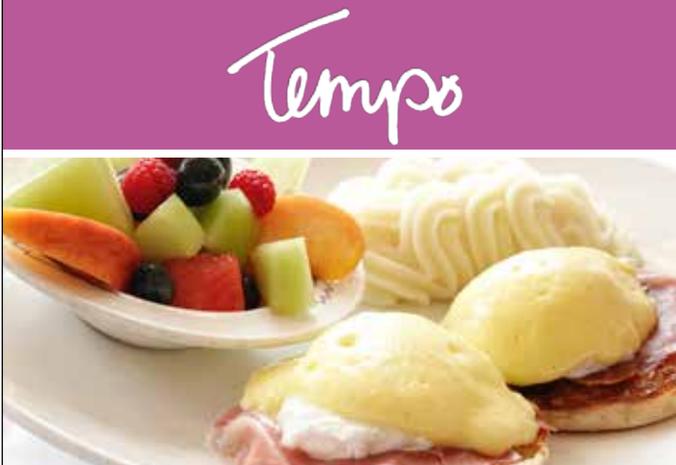
It seems that it has. In addition to selling beans online, Lambda’s stands at local farmers’ markets have been especially successful and regularly sold out around the holidays.

For Vacca and Freeman, who each dedicate around 20 hours per week to the business in addition to working full-time jobs, the future of Lambda is exciting and uncertain. Freeman and Vacca are split on how they see that future – Freeman wants to see Lambda Coffee expand to a coffee shop/queer hang-out space, while Vacca would prefer it remain a quality roaster – but they both agree that coffee is more than just a morning beverage.

“It’s an experience, coffee,” Freeman said. “... There was a guy from Ethiopia that was like, ‘Give me some of your Ethiopian coffee.’ And he tasted and he was like, ‘Oh yeah, this is what I wanted.’ That’s really cool actually.”

“I think about how [a] business owner is approaching it and how they’re causing delight,” Vacca said. “Whether you’re a musician, you’re causing people delight, and it’s the same with coffee. You’re causing people to have delight, and that’s a gratifying thing.”

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FREEDOM FROM | 1

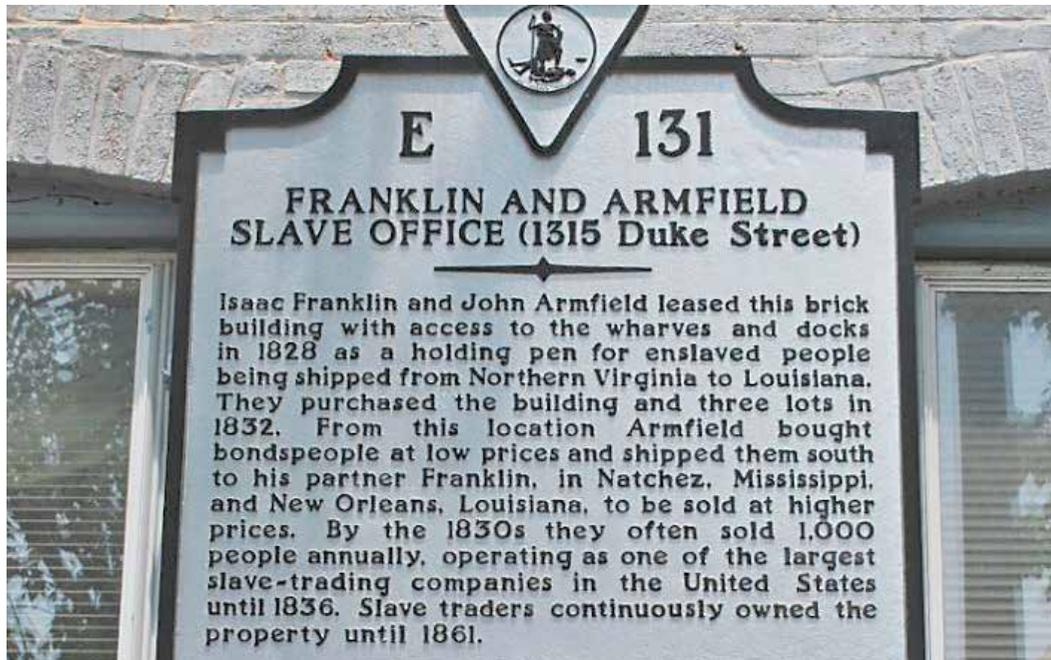
through that building, which is stunning and sobering and I think is part of that story that we need to tell,” Mayor Justin Wilson said.

NVUL has owned and operated Freedom House as a museum since 1996, but in recent years, the organization has struggled to maintain, repair and pay taxes on the early 19th-century property.

In the past, the city has come to the aid of NVUL. City council approved a \$63,000 loan to the organization in February 2019. As part of the arrangement, the city was allowed to operate the basement level museum, while NVUL maintained ownership of the property.

Even with the city’s help, NVUL continued to fall behind on the site’s property taxes, which amounted to about \$19,000 over the past three years.

The city’s \$1.8 million pur-



PHOTO/VISIT ALEXANDRIA

chase of the site brings Freedom House under complete city ownership, although NVUL will continue to have office space in the building for the next five years, according to the release.

The Freedom House pur-

chase will go before the planning commission and council for approval in February.

The city is exploring partnerships with the state, private parties and community donors to restore the building. Already, the

project has attracted attention from people across the country who are interested in preserving the often untold history of the domestic slave trade, Wilson said.

“We think it’s a very important story that needs to be

told, and it is part of a journey for the city in trying to have a broader, more inclusive view of how we tell our history in the city,” Wilson said.

Gov. Ralph Northam recommended providing \$2.44 million in state funding for Freedom House on Dec. 17, as part of the annual budget proposal that will go before the Virginia General Assembly, according to the release. If approved, the money will go toward renovating and restoring the building and expanding the museum to the first and second floors.

“This is just the beginning,” Wilson said. “This is the beginning of what will be a significant effort, but it’s an exciting effort and one that there was a fair amount of energy with.”

To contribute to the restoration and expansion of Freedom House, visit www.alexandriava.gov/FreedomHouse.
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Times Living

CITY CREATIVES

Wild fire

Del Ray potter uses wood firing to meld form and function

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

Behind a house in Del Ray in a shed-turned-home-studio, Stephen Lally leans over his pottery wheel, sculpting and shaping art out of wet clay like a home-spun Prometheus.

The studio is full of recently fired ceramics, discarded ideas and gifts from fellow potters, all packed on shelves and into plastic bins next to his electric kiln. Like the pottery wheel on which raw earth becomes craft goods, Lally's mind is always spinning.

Over the past 30 years, Lally, a member of Del Ray Artisans since he moved to the neighborhood in 1997, has honed wood firing – an unusual, challenging method of making ceramics – to create pots, jugs and mugs.

The process, which requires raising a wood-fueled kiln to 2,400 degrees Fahrenheit, results in ceramics that remain, in both form and function, closely connected to the earth and fire that forged them.

“What I like in the clay is when I throw a pot on the wheel and it first comes off the wheel fresh. The way the clay looks at that time is just really something,” Lally said. “So, this is a way you capture it, or most closely capture it.”

Lally grew up in Boulder, Colorado and attended the University of Colorado, where he unexpectedly found one of the country's best ceramics programs. He never officially entered an arts program, but he found himself drawn to clay.

“I had done different things – I had done sculpture, drawing and jewelry making – but there was a way that clay just felt,” Lally said. “I felt much more connected to that.”

It wasn't uncommon to find Lally at the school's ceramics studio, spinning the wheel late into the night. At first, the act of spinning and sculpting clay was a fight, one that Lally often lost at the expense of malformed mounds of wet clay.

“The analogy of riding a bike [is] fairly apt because when you first get on a bike ... it's so hard and then at a cer-



COURTESY PHOTO

Stephen Lally uses wood firing, a challenging method of making ceramics.

tain point it's like, 'OK, now I get it,'" Lally said. “Then the wheel becomes a tool and not so much something you're fighting or struggling with.”

His mind just seemed suited to ceramics work, Lally said. “A very spatial person,” Lally enjoyed imagining objects and flipping them around in his mind.

It helped that one of Lally's first ceramics teachers, Wayne Branum, was a stu-

dent of the form-focused Minnesota school of pottery.

“It has English and Japanese roots,” Lally said. “If you look at some of the very traditional pots that were made in England – things like the medieval jugs or some of the country crock – what you see is very strong form and strong design. It's not a frilly pot. Similarly, in Japan, there's different aesthetic threads, but one of

them has been a very form focused one. There's a long history, also, of wood firing.”

Lally went on to receive a master's degree in philosophy at the University of Chapel Hill in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where he continued making pottery.

After grad school, Lally committed wholeheartedly to learning his craft. He

SEE LALLY

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HOMEIES

Pet decor

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CALENDAR

January and February events

Go to a Del Ray Artisans exhibit, grab tickets to Ricky Skaggs at the Birchmere and more. | Page 19

CITY CREATIVES: STEPHEN LALLY



PHOTO/CODY MELLO-KLEIN



PHOTO/CODY MELLO-KLEIN

Top: Stephen Lally works some clay in his home studio.

Bottom: Lally's face jugs are some of his more expressive pieces; some were included as part of Del Ray Artisans' "Twilight Zone" exhibit.

LALLY

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Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

attended Penland School of Crafts in Penland, North Carolina and Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in

“For me, what was really useful and helpful was having somebody looking at your work, giving you critique about your work and

sort of asking you the kind of questions like, ‘Well, what are you trying to do? Why are you doing this?’” Lally said.

Lally eventually moved to Alexandria around 1987 – and Del Ray in 1997 – where he’s become a familiar presence at Torpedo Factory and Del Ray Artisans showings.

Lally’s first experience with wood firing at the University of Colorado stuck with him.

This “crazy way of firing,” as Lally called it, consumes two cords of wood in 24 hours, the same amount of wood most people consume in an entire winter. Lally travels to Chester Springs, Pennsylvania and Baltimore, Maryland to attend communal wood firings with a roster of potters he’s come to know over the years.

Unlike electric or gas firing,

which is a solitary experience, wood firing requires cooperation. People have to stoke the kiln every three to five minutes to maintain the heat. It’s hard work, but the end result is worth it, Lally said.

“The color that you see on the clay – the browns, the orange – that’s all from the flame going across and bringing the iron to the surface,” Lally said. “You can see the path of the flame, but as the ash comes in, it actually comes down like snow but it also goes like a stream. It melts and forms a glass because there’s the trace minerals in the wood that are glass formers.”

Wood firing emphasizes the natural qualities of the clay, leaving Lally’s pieces glazed but somewhat naked in shape and form.

There’s an honesty to

Lally’s work, as he doesn’t try to mask imperfections. Some of the handles look like they’ve been attached because they have been attached. Lally’s process, the work he puts into making his art and the clay itself, are front and center, he said.

Lally uses a twisted wire to slice pieces off of raw clay on the wheel. The texture of the wire leaves a permanent record, a shell-like pattern, on the underside of his mug. The grooves and marks, things that are often erased on mass-produced mugs, are like birthmarks, a connection to Lally and the Earth.

“You have no sense of the skin or structure or bone,” Lally said, pointing to an industrially-designed coffee mug. “... There’s a way that

SEE **LALLY**

| 11

CITY CREATIVES: STEPHEN LALLY



PHOTO/CODY MELLO-KLEIN

Above: Lally uses an electric kiln in his home studio to do an initial firing for some of his pieces.

Top right: Pots, cups, plates and jugs are some of the items Lally creates.

Bottom right: Mugs like this retain both function and form, Lally said.



PHOTO/STEPHEN LALLY



PHOTO/STEPHEN LALLY

LALLY FROM | 10

[with] wood firing you really get to see the pot and the clay in a way that if you glaze it all the way down you lose that.”

Lally strives to emphasize both form and function in his work. He designs his pieces with a specific aesthetic in mind, but they are useless if they have no utilitarian value.

Using one of his mugs as an example, Lally points out how the bone-like ribbing of the mug is not only stylish but functional, especially for people who like to hold their mugs with two hands. The volcanically narrow top that slopes down into a wider base also provides stability.

Ceramics, especially the kind that Lally makes, are meant to be used, Lally said. If he's successful, a mug be-

comes more than just an object to its owner. Over time, that mug becomes an extension of its owner. A bond is forged through daily rituals – on cold winter mornings or muggy summer nights – to the point where, once lost, it can seem irreplaceable.

“If you think about it, there's nothing more intimate than the cups that you drink out of,” Lally said. “They sort of become a part of your life, and so it's interesting that so many people use what I would say are sterile, dead, industrially designed mugs that work well, first and foremost, for production.”

In the years after he came to Alexandria, Lally taught pottery classes at the Durant Center as part of a city program and volunteered at the Art League,

where he met his wife, a poet and publisher.

When kids came into the picture, Lally cut down on his wood-firing trips, but as his kids have gotten older – his daughter was recently named T.C. Williams High School's poet laureate – he's found time to return to the kiln.

He's participated in more national pottery shows and has reconnected with Del Ray Artisans; he now serves as the organization's treasurer.

“It's a neat organization. I've liked it a lot,” Lally said. “It's a very diverse one in terms of the folks who are there and people at different levels, sort of where they are with their art.”

Wood firing is a challenging way to go about making pottery. There are far easier methods – and

“If you think about it, there's nothing more intimate than the cups that you drink out of. They sort of become a part of your life, and so it's interesting that so many people use what I would say are sterile, dead, industrially designed mugs that work well, first and foremost, for production.”

– Stephen Lally

Lally uses them as well. But, 30 years later, wood firing, the confluence of fire, earth and wood, remains Lally's method of choice. He's forged lasting friendships in those flames, along with pottery that still holds a meaningful place in people's homes and hearts.

“I saw on Instagram recently somebody who used to live in this area 20 some years ago and he's posting, ‘Oh, here's my Lally mug,’” Lally said. “I thought, ‘That's cool. I hadn't seen that thing in 20 something years, and yet it's part of your life.’”

–cmelloklein@alextimes.com

HOMES

Dog-gone good design

BY MARY G. PEPITONE

For more homeowners, being in the doghouse is a good thing, especially when it comes to design centered on their four-legged family members.

According to the American Pet Products Association National Pet Owners' Survey from 2018, an estimated 84.9 million United States households own a pet. The research found that Americans spent more than \$72 billion on their pets, and that spending has steadily increased every year over the past two decades, according to Tierra Bonaldi, pet lifestyle expert with APPA.

"Owners no longer consider their pet just an animal, but rather, equate them to another family member," Bonaldi said. "Because we view our pets in more human terms, our demand for higher quality and design has grown to be more in line with our preferences for products for the rest of the family."

Homes can have that wow factor with doggie decor and feline furnishings, which mirror our human preferences.

"Home decor manufacturers are making products for pets that are not only functional and convenient for owners, but also something pet owners actually want to display in their homes," Bonaldi said. "With millennials now taking over as the primary pet-owning demographic, there is a demand for pet furniture that takes up minimal space, stores easily or seamlessly fits into their living space."

According to APPA, many builders are investing in special architectural accommo-



PHOTO/IKEA

Pet owners and homeowners can stylishly coexist with this Ikea Lurvig pet bed, featuring a bottom seat cushion, which folds out for larger animals.

dations for the four-legged inhabitants of homes.

"Builders recognize that more than two-thirds of the population owns pets, and accommodating their needs as pet owners only makes for a more desirable home," Bonaldi said.

Evidence that home construction has gone to the dogs – in a good way – includes:

- Washing and grooming stations in a mudroom, custom cabinetry with built-in food and water bowls, doggie doors and specialized low windows so pets can see outdoors.

- Simple pet-friendly built-in options such as wall hooks for leashes and collars by the door; bins for pet food and toy storage; or a fold-down pet bed that is hinged at one end to store vertically against the wall

when not in use.

- Flooring and home furniture manufacturers offer pet-friendly options that essentially protect from everyday wear and tear of pets, including stylish stain-proof fabrics, while using materials that are durable, easy-to-clean and made to withstand claws and paws.

But to understand what pets truly need, form and function must also work from the four-legged perspective, according to Abbey Stark, senior interior design leader at Ikea-US.

A Swedish-founded company, Ikea designs and sells ready-to-assemble furniture and home accessories and is one of the most accessible contemporary home-goods retailers in the world.

"We brought in pet-loving



PHOTO/IKEA

Ikea's "cat house" with a pad is a cozy, safe and comfortable space that can be placed on the floor or slid into a shelving unit.

HOMES

HOMES FROM | 12

designers and trained veterinarians to help develop Ikea's cat and dog home collection," Stark said. "The LURVIG line was created with our pets' natural needs and behavior as starting points."

With products that include a cozy cat hidey-hole, which fits into a bookcase, and snug dog beds with easy-to-clean cushions, a pet's essentials can be integrated into a minimalistic home design.

"Having dedicated spaces for food storage, toys and a place for your pet to enjoy a good night's sleep are all important for the happiness of your pet and the organization of your home," Stark said.

Pet products that serve a dual function are most popular, including a dog bed and nightstand in one, or a litter box and end table combination, according to the APPA.

"We also noticed many manufacturers offering white and gray furniture, with more modern designs, again, mirroring the decor trends we're seeing on the human side," Bonaldi said.

Pet owners and homeowners can stylishly coexist by creating Zenlike zones for animals inside a house.

"Nooks can create a cozy sleeping area for your pet, store a litter box or a food station," Stark said. "Selecting blankets and cushions that match the decor of your home is one easy

way to provide a cozy place for your pet, while protecting furniture and not compromising the design of your home."

Homeowners don't have to undergo a house remodel to enjoy the perks of having a pet. Items in Ikea's LURVIG line range from \$5 to \$50, but you can also borrow inspiration from existing items in your home to attain pet purr-fection.

Living with pets as companions can fill a need for connection in this busy tech-filled world, Stark said.

"Pets have become part of our daily lives," she said. "Pets give us unconditional love, and for that, we want to provide them with a home that is cozy, filled with happiness and a lot of treats."



PHOTO/ IKEA

Ikea's cat scratching mat transforms an ordinary table leg into a scratching tree when secured with sewn-in straps. Preserving a home's wooden furniture, this mat addresses a cat's need to sharpen claws and stretch without buying a separate, unsightly posts.

HOME OF THE WEEK

Suburban escape offers comfort, convenient location

This home is inside the beltway, just minutes from Washington D.C. and Old Town. However, this neighborhood is away from the urban hustle. It's a park-like suburban escape.

The community is nestled into the side of a hill with trees and parks throughout. It also includes both tennis courts and a community pool.

The home backs to parkland with walking trails. Sit on the deck and feel miles away from the busy day-to-day of D.C.

The master bedroom is on the main level, so feel free to

live on one level or stretch over three finished levels.

The finished lower level has a large rec room and lower bedroom with a bath, sitting area and full cedar closet.

The home also has new HVAC systems and new Anderson windows, including sliding glass doors, that were installed four years ago.

AT A GLANCE

Address: 5274 Winter View Drive
Price: \$924,990
Year built: 1997
Size: 3,040 square feet
Beds: 5
Baths: 4.5
Contact:
 Casey Margenau
 casey@marginau.com
 703-851-2600



COURTESY PHOTOS

HOMES ADVERTORIAL



HOMEOWNERS! Cold weather and the holidays will be here before you know it! Call us today to schedule your free estimate for interior painting! 703-684-7702 | techpainting.com

Our View

Thanks to the unseen, essential workers

When readers get their copy of the Alexandria Times each week, their first impression is our front page – particularly the photos, stories and teasers about what’s inside.

When someone reads a particular story, they might take note of the byline and mentally credit the author. Or a reader might notice a particularly attractive advertisement and look up the name of Times Graphic Designer Lyvi Sieg – or members of our sales team – on the masthead that runs in our opinion pages.

Many people in Alexandria know members of the Times’ ownership group, who hear kudos and sometimes complaints about the paper when they’re out in the community.

However, it’s true at the Times and at many organizations that one of the most indispensable employees at the company is the least visible: the office manager or administrator.

Office managers are generally not out in the public representing the organization for which they work. Instead, they’re the person always in the office, holding things together. In the Times’ case, the office manager is the constant presence, as reporters and sales reps come and go to and from the office.

The Times’ current office administrator, Tina Franco, is wonderful. She cheerfully and willingly organizes us, revamping the processes and procedures we didn’t realize needed revamping, and she is a major asset to our team.

The Times was also blessed to have Pat Booth, who died on Sunday at age 83, as our office manager for 10 years.

Pat joined the Times in its early years, before any members of the current staff or ownership group were part of the paper. She handled a myriad of duties, from answering phones to handling call-in classified ads.

Pat was beautiful and took pride in her appearance even into her 80s, as she toiled around Alexandria in her tiny BMW sports car. She was also a character, and one of her favorite sayings was “These princess hands don’t do dishes,” which was an admonishment to those among us who would leave our dirties in the sink.

While greeting everyone who came into the office with a loud welcome or a joke, Pat was also resolutely loyal to the paper. She helped the Times weather some rocky early days en route to becoming established and successful.

Even in her later years, when walking became difficult and she had to work fewer hours, Pat got herself up the flight of stairs and into the Times’ office twice a week to contribute what she could. When she finally needed to retire and move to Utah to be with her family in late 2017, Pat left a significant void at the Times.

So we pay tribute to the Pat Booths of the world, those diligent, indispensable office managers – usually women – who do their jobs with pride and yet are generally unseen and often taken for granted. Thank you for all that you do.

And may Pat Booth herself rest in peace.

Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson



Your Views

A playground takeover at Polk

To the editor:

Neighbors adjacent to the James K. Polk Elementary School are wondering how an outdoor metal structure, resembling a massive Erector Set, suddenly sprung up on the corner of Pegram and Polk streets, without any community input or public discussion.

Among the issues raised are: Why is an Alexandria public school being used to promote the brand of a major international corporation – Target – as a free advertising space? There were no public hearings on this use of the space nor a request for special use permit under the private-public partnership considerations.

Alexandria City Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Gregory Hutchings, Ed.D in a written statement on Oct. 1 noted that the U.S. Soccer Foundation reached out to ACPS back in December 2018. They, in turn, partnered with Target, which provided a one-time contribution of \$100,000 to install the structure. All discussions were conducted internally among school officials, U.S. Soccer and Target – not with the surrounding homeowners.

Polk Principal Pree Ann Johnston noted

that initially the school had intended to meet with neighbors to discuss the earlier proposals, which included evening lighting and a possibility of surrounding bleachers. But following recent spirited debates about lighting at T.C. Williams High School and G.W. Middle School, that idea was abandoned.

Johnston was asked whether there was any input sought from the teachers on the proposal and she said no. Nor was the PTA involved until the beginning of school in September, with only one person participating. Apparently, because there was no requirement for letters to notify the community about the project, outreach efforts were abandoned.

Nearby residents who have called Polk have said school staff are in the dark about the takeover of the school playground. Apparently, even Mayor Justin Wilson was in the dark, as he responded to an inquiry from a neighbor by saying he didn’t know the background on the structure.

The recently paved play surface has now been totally dominated by the caged

SEE **PLAYGROUND**

Our city manager is not overpaid

To the editor:

Recently you have printed several letters accusing the City of Alexandria of overpaying its top professional staff. Comparisons have been made with the pay of federal cabinet officers and indeed the president's salary, which is about \$400,000 per year.

But another comparison is useful. At least 40 university presidents make more than double the president's salary. Seventeen public university presidents are paid more than \$1 million a year and some almost \$2 million.

Football coaches, who it is argued attract donations to

their schools, often make more than university presidents. The top earner is the football coach at the University of Alabama, Nick Saban, whose pay is more than \$8 million in 2020, according to Sports Illustrated.

I do not believe we are overpaying our city manager.

There is a problem though. Alexandria is supposed to have a strong city manager system with a city council to legislate and provide oversight. But during the 40 years that I have lived in Old Town, I have noted council is increasingly micro-managing.

-H.J. Rosenbaum,
Alexandria

“The recently paved play surface has now been totally dominated by the caged area for a very limited number of students.”

-Kathleen M. Burns,
resident

PLAYGROUND FROM | 14

area for a very limited number of students. The basketball hoops have been removed in favor of the two futsal courts. It seems that this is setting a dangerous precedent for the soccer association to be able to appropriate the paved area of a school playground.

Many questions remain unanswered: What kind of cost/benefit analysis does the school board require to approve turning over school property to a private organization? Does the school board have a policy for allowing a non-school entity to take over school property for its own

private use? Who is paying for liability insurance for costs of anyone injured while using this facility?

A hard surface, which had many uses, was eliminated to build this structure, which has few uses. Why didn't the school simply fence in the entire play area of the school, for safety reasons, to keep children from running out in the street after stray balls?

Neighbors, and all Alexandria taxpayers, have a right to know why the community did not have input into erecting this structure. City officials have some explaining to do.

-Kathleen M. Burns,
Alexandria



Filling in the Blanks
with Dr. Gregory Hutchings, Ed.D.

New Year brings a fresh perspective

Often, I get to sit with members of our community and discuss topics that impact our school division and students during a series of Superintendent Chats.

Although we always encourage people to come out and share their opinions, some chats are better attended than others. So when it came to a cold and wet night in December close to the holidays, I could not have been more excited and encouraged when a room full of community members turned out to talk with our ACPS staff.

The topic of the Superintendent Chat? Equity.

The diverse crowd included people who used our translation services and many others who were excited about their first time participating in a Superintendent Chat. The meeting was lively with active discussion, many ideas shared and connections made.

This is what equity is doing for us as a city. It appears that there is an excitement in our city and our school community around this topic at this time. It also seems that our community wants to embrace our diversity and yearns for solutions and action to tackle inequities.

No matter their cultural or socio-economic background, no matter whether someone has lived here all their life or just arrived, there is a shared interest in this topic that many see as a route to high performance, opportunity and making our city and school division the best we've ever been.

I am thrilled to welcome the city's new equity officer – a first for Alexandria – and also a role that speaks loudly to our values as a community. I am also excited to see equity front and center as the core of our ACPS Strategic Plan 2025. Most of all, I am excited to see our city and school division collaborate in a Unified Strategic Planning Process for the first time around our shared future – each with equity at the heart of our core mission.

Alexandria City Public Schools is

one of the most diverse school divisions in the country, which affords our young people one of the greatest gifts to prepare them to become productive global citizens. We have 120 different countries represented and 121 different languages spoken by our students. This wonderful diversity also brings obstacles which requires us to use strategic thinking and planning to overcome.

Equity is not the same as equality.

It is making sure all students have exactly what they need, not giving everyone the same thing. It is meeting each student where they are and not necessarily where we want them to be. It takes courage and requires us to make decisions that don't fit the status quo.

To be successful, we must intentionally go into communities where families are most underrepresented and underserved to ensure that we hear their perspectives and strive to address their needs. We have to be prepared to sometimes make decisions that may not be the most popular and which can at times cause anxiety. The right thing is almost never easy.

We must be willing to take a stand for people who have different walks in life, who look different from us, who have different experiences and who have different needs. In order to do this, we have to check our egos at the door and enter this equity work with a clear mind, willing to embrace all of humanity without judgment, bias or racism.

The city of Alexandria has a rich history, but many of our inequities today were intentionally orchestrated to have one group empower another throughout that history. There have been a lot of painful historical moments since the City of Alexandria was founded, and these are not easy to overcome. But we must have the courage to acknowledge the past and not repeat it.

I wish you a Happy New Year.

The writer is superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools.



DR. GREGORY HUTCHINGS, ED.D

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.

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OUT OF THE ATTIC

The bright lights of Alexandria, continued

Joe Namath's wasn't the only career that had a memorable start at the George Washington High School football stadium. In terms of world history, John F. Kennedy's campaign stop there in 1960, shortly after receiving the Democratic Party's nomination for president, had greater resonance.

Kennedy's rally was held on Aug. 24 as part of a push to keep southern electoral votes. Accompanying the future president was his running mate Lyndon B. Johnson, who would later become president himself, along with Johnson's wife, Claudia Alta "Lady Bird" Johnson, and Virginia Governor J. Lindsay Almond.

Kennedy's speech started off as an acknowledgment of Virginia's contribution to the founding of the Democratic Party but focused on his differences from his opponent, Richard M. Nixon, in the area of foreign policy.

An estimated 15,000 people came to the G.W. High School football stadium, requiring the arrangement of buses from McLean and Seven Corners, the erection of a platform, special sound system and the installation of Klieg lights, which were used for television lighting.

Kennedy argued that under the Eisenhower and Nixon administration:

"Never before have we experienced treatment at the



Kennedy's motorcade in Alexandria, 1960.

PHOTO/ PAUL SCHUTZER FOR TIME LIFE IMAGES

hands of our enemy. Never before have we experienced such a decline in our prestige, driving our friends to neutralism, and neutrals to outright hostility."

He dismissed Nixon's foreign policy experience of personal meetings with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev by asking listeners to point to one change in Soviet policy as a result of Nixon meeting with the Soviet Premier.

Kennedy contrasted his vision of the United States with that of the Republicans by saying voters should vote for the then vice-president if they liked "the previous eight years of nothing ever happens."

Another barb was:

"Mr. Nixon may be very

experienced in kitchen debates. So are a great number of married men I know."

Among the rally participants were the Golden Girls, a group of young women volunteers who dressed in white dresses and straw hats who passed out campaign buttons. Most of the Democratic Party royalty of Virginia showed up for the rally, including Alexandria Mayor Leroy Bendheim, who cut short a vacation to Nova Scotia to lead the rally in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was one notable absence: Virginia Senator Harry Byrd stayed in Washington that evening claiming that he hadn't decided who to endorse. Governor Almond would comment after the rally that he had never seen such

enthusiasm in his time as a Virginia politician. Kennedy won the Democratic Party nomination despite questions about his experience at the tender age of 43. His rally in Alexandria showed his political power in the state and ability to unify the different factions of the party behind him. His speech, focused on the sometimes dry topic of foreign policy, nevertheless electrified the audience.

Despite the enthusiasm he generated in Alexandria, Kennedy lost Virginia by approximately six percentage points in the November 1960 presidential election.

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

Weekly Poll

Last Week

How do you approach New Year's resolutions?

43% I seldom make resolutions.

26% I always make at least one resolution, about various aspects of my life.

16% I usually make a resolution about health and wellness.

15% I've never made a New Year's resolution.

0% I usually make a work-related resolution.

This Week

[Take the poll at alextimes.com](https://www.alextimes.com)

What is your favorite high school sport to follow?

A) Football

B) Basketball

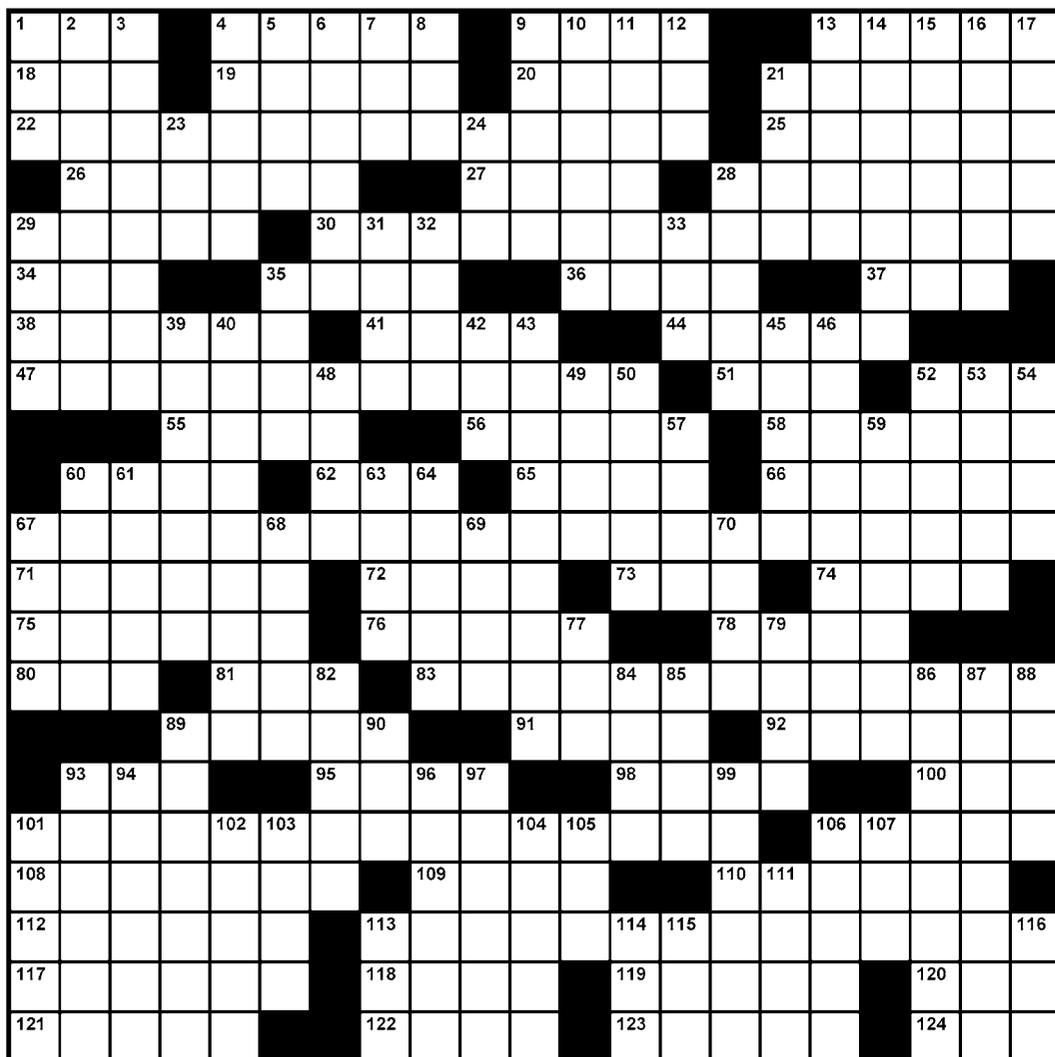
C) Lacrosse

D) Soccer

E) Baseball

F) Other

Weekly Words



DEATH NOTICES

- PAT BOOTH** (83), formerly of Alexandria, Jan. 5, 2019
- PHOEBE J. GARVIN** (68), of Alexandria, Dec. 29, 2019
- BARRY H. HELLMAN** (57), formerly of Alexandria, Dec. 28, 2019
- CHARLES LITTLE** (81), of Alexandria, Dec. 12, 2019
- DONALD "RED" MCMINN** (76), of Alexandria, Jan. 2, 2020
- CAROL MEISELMAN** (90), formerly of Alexandria, Jan. 2, 2020
- JOSEPH MOORE** (87), of Alexandria, Dec. 28, 2019
- JEROME PALERMINO** (87), of Alexandria, Dec. 31, 2019
- VANESSA SAWYER** (60), of Alexandria, Jan. 1, 2019
- SAMUEL J. WATSON III** (80) of Alexandria, Dec. 23, 2019

Solutions from two weeks ago



NEWSY by Ross Trudeau, edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS

- 1. Creative writing deg.
- 4. Ramen taste
- 9. Common January forecast
- 13. Pulling device with a rope
- 18. Chi-Town airport code
- 19. Trash can insert
- 20. Walk up a mountain, say
- 21. Aplenty
- 22. Supporting a New York publication?
- 25. United flight?
- 26. Attention to ____
- 27. About, on a memo
- 28. Locks of hair
- 29. Green salsa variety
- 30. One opposed to a Columbia publication?
- 34. Hematite, for one
- 35. Explorer called "the Red"
- 36. Prefix with god
- 37. "____ my pleasure!"
- 38. Occupies, as a rocker
- 41. Flaccid
- 44. Old Apple messaging app
- 47. Pore over a Boston publication?
- 51. Barbie's partner
- 52. Saldana of "Guardians of the Galaxy"
- 55. Target of a skin care strip
- 56. Moved stealthily

- 58. Twitter handle component
- 60. ____ Crunch
- 62. Copacabana city, informally
- 65. Brit's "Dear me!"
- 66. A drop can create one in a bucket
- 67. Like some eco-friendly boxes, or an alternate title for this puzzle?
- 71. MSNBC host Mitchell
- 72. Finish a walk?
- 73. What a gossip "spills"
- 74. He's engaged to J.Lo
- 75. "That's untrue!"
- 76. Playground chute
- 78. H.S. stress sources
- 80. Put on
- 81. Animation frame
- 83. Redact parts of a Baltimore publication?
- 89. Wine region north of Bordeaux
- 91. Teri of "Tootsie"
- 92. Power in old Hollywood?
- 93. Genre from Jamaica
- 95. R&B singer Erykah
- 98. Rapper Azalea
- 100. ____ Mae (Whoopi's "Ghost" role)
- 101. Start reading an Orange County publication?
- 106. Really want
- 108. Antiguan-American novelist Jamaica

- 109. Rant's opposite
- 110. One sending a credit card
- 112. Yearly records
- 113. Chap who's part of a London publication?
- 117. Ticks off
- 118. Soup or salad, often
- 119. Boring
- 120. Lithium-____ battery
- 121. Specks of land
- 122. Pleased
- 123. Low on patience
- 124. Grp. with full-body scanners

DOWN

- 1. Black Friday crowd, seemingly
- 2. Composer Chopin
- 3. Abide by
- 4. Radii neighbors
- 5. Medium-length skirt
- 6. Feature of a buck
- 7. So-so
- 8. Wrath
- 9. Like a new penny
- 10. Biblical hunter
- 11. Michael of "Caddyshack"
- 12. Director Anderson
- 13. Polishes, as a Porsche
- 14. Classic excuse for missing homework
- 15. Greets silently
- 16. Vinegar bottles
- 17. "Siddhartha" author

- 21. Richard of "Pretty Woman"
- 23. "____ be an honor"
- 24. Apple CEO Cook
- 28. Like a book with many pages
- 29. Evian competitor
- 31. Blue or White African river
- 32. Juul, e.g.
- 33. "You overshared," in texts
- 35. ____'acte
- 39. Evening meals
- 40. Sturdy enclosure for an estate's grounds
- 42. Org. for New York City FC
- 43. German shepherd, often
- 45. Caught wind of
- 46. Strong dislike
- 48. Wonder Woman, for one
- 49. Otherwise engaged
- 50. Pass, like a law
- 52. Nada
- 53. Looked at rudely
- 54. Part of DOE (Abbr.)
- 57. Selina ____ (Catwoman's alter ego)
- 59. Fewer and farther between
- 60. Division of a long poem
- 61. Contribute
- 63. Holy terrors
- 64. Toothbrush brand
- 67. ____ of honor
- 68. Assigned stars to
- 69. Diabolical
- 70. Montana-to-Minnesota

- direction
- 77. Drop-off guess, briefly
- 79. J.D. holder
- 82. Like brains or ears
- 84. "Pics ____ didn't happen!"
- 85. Craving
- 86. Very done with something
- 87. Fruit of the Loom brand for kids
- 88. Tidy
- 89. Dad's refuge, maybe
- 90. Expensive gift for a teen
- 93. Backbones
- 94. Place to retrieve a retriever
- 96. Throw off track
- 97. South Sudan neighbor
- 99. Deep sorrows
- 101. "African unicorn"
- 102. Dead men tell no ____
- 103. Tabby's "Back off!"
- 104. Vine-covered
- 105. Cory Booker, e.g. (Abbr.)
- 106. Former CBS spinoff set in the Big Apple
- 107. Sharing possessive
- 111. Obscene writing
- 113. Food additive letters
- 114. Wile E. Coyote's explosive
- 115. Tilling tool
- 116. Cellular messenger



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HELP WANTED

Software Engineer Senior to work in Alexandria, VA. Apply: www.saic.com, Science Applications International

Corporation. Job code # 1929621. EOE.

LEGAL NOTICE



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA,
VIRGINIA
FINANCE DEPARTMENT/
PURCHASING DIVISION
SUITE 301 - BANKER'S
SQUARE
100 NORTH PITT STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
22314

Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

Title: Request for Proposals No. 881, INSURANCE CONSULTING AND BROKERAGE SERVICES.

Closing Date and Time: February 5, 2020 at 3:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

For general inquiries contact James Pearson, Contract Specialist, at james.pearson@alexandriava.gov.

The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

HELP WANTED

TaxServ, LLC is a McLean based tax lien servicing company that is looking for the right person to fill a part-time administrative assistant for our managing director. You will have the flexibility to create a schedule that works for you, but we do expect you to work 4 or 5 days a week during business hours for a total of 25-30 hours. Work just in the morning, or maybe during the mid-day hours, or maybe in the afternoon, whatever fits your schedule. This position is perfect for someone looking to get back into the workplace without committing to full-

time. The candidate should have excellent computer skills related to Microsoft Office and QuickBooks, have good organization and time management skills, be able to manage an executive's schedule, and have good experience with online research. If you are interested, please send a resume to taxserv@taxserv.com with a subject line of Admin Assistant. TaxServ is an equal opportunity employer.

LEGAL NOTICE



The Alexandria City School Board will hold a public hearing on the FY 2021 Combined Funds Budget during the regular School Board Meeting held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, January 23, 2020, in the School Board Meeting Room located at 1340 Braddock Place, Alexandria. For more information or to register to speak at the public hearing, please contact the Clerk of the Board at 703-619-8316 or email boardclerk@acps.k12.va.us.

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 22, 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 #2019-00552 OHAD
Request for partial demolition at 802 South Lee Street

CALENDAR

Applicant: Jason Dowling

BAR #2019-00551 OHAD

Request for alterations at 802 South Lee Street

Applicant: Jason Dowling

BAR #2019-00539 OHAD

Request for partial demolition at 809 South Lee Street

Applicants: Michael & Allyson Hazzard

BAR #2019-00538 OHAD

Request for alterations at 809 South Lee Street

Applicants: Michael & Allyson Hazzard

BAR #2019-00557 OHAD

Request for concept review at 116 South Henry Street

Applicant: Galena Capital Partners

BAR #2019-00556 OHAD

Request for concept review at 912, 916 & 920 King Street

Applicant: Galena Capital Partners

Old and Historic Alexandria

District (OHAD); Parker – Gray District (PG)

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Graciela.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.

FOR SALE

Double crypt burial plot.

Mount Comfort Cemetery \$6,000. Call or text (434) 390-4433.

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JANUARY 10

DEL RAY ARTISANS' TANGERINE ART EXHIBIT

Join Del Ray Artisans for Tangerine, an art exhibit exploring the color and all it represents. Like most other orange hues, tangerine is associated with energy, youth and happiness. It has also been the love interest in popular songs and is said to stimulate the joyful energy of the inner child. This juried exhibit features art from local area artists and is guaranteed to bring warmth and brightness to the wintry days of January. The exhibit runs through Feb. 2.

Time: Thursdays and Sundays noon to 6 p.m., Friday and Saturdays noon to 9 p.m.

Location: 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave.

Information: www.delrayartisans.org

JANUARY 10 & 11

RICKY SKAGGS PERFORMS AT THE BIRCHMERE

Country Music Hall of Famer Ricky Skaggs will perform at the Birchmere Music Hall this weekend. Ricky was inducted into both the Country Music Hall of Fame and the International Bluegrass Music Association Hall of Fame in 2018. He's won 15 Grammy Awards, 13 IBMA Awards, nine ACM Awards, nine ICM Awards, eight CMA Awards and two Dove Awards.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave.

Information: www.rickyskaggs.com

JANUARY 11

ROBERT MEALY AND LEON SCHELHASE PERFORM BACH SONATAS

Head to the Athenaeum for an evening of Bach's Sonatas for violin and harpsichord. This is part one of a two part weekend presentation covering the Complete Sonatas for Violin and Harpsichord of J.S. Bach.

Robert Mealy, one of America's most prominent Baroque violinists, and Leon Schelhase, an international award-winning harpsichordist, are set to perform.

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.

Information: www.nvfaa.org

STORIES IN THE ARCHITECTURE

Venture behind the scenes, from the basement to the attic, and explore the history of the Lee-Fendall House through its architecture. Changes in style and home technology have all left their mark on the home, from when it was built in 1785 through its continued use as a home in the 20th century. This tour will include parts of the house that are not regularly open to the public.

Time: 2 to 3:15 p.m.

Location: Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St.

Information: www.leefendallhouse.org

JANUARY 12

FILM SCREENING OF "OUR ALEXANDRIA"

In the film "Our

Alexandria," directed by Robin Hamilton, two artists from Alexandria revisit a town's segregated past and tell the story of family, friendship, loss and love through their historical dollhouses. Robin Hamilton is an Emmy-award winning journalist, television host, moderator and writer.

Time: 3 to 5 p.m.

Location: Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.

Information: www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum

JANUARY 17 TO 26

WINTER RESTAURANT WEEK

For 10 days and two weekends, 70 restaurants in Alexandria will offer a \$35 three-course dinner for one or a \$35 dinner for two. Thirty-five restaurants will also offer lunch menus at \$15 or \$22 per person in addition to the dinner specials. Brunch lovers can enjoy brunch menus for \$15 or \$22 per person at more than a dozen restaurants. New Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week participants include Augie's Mussel House and Beer Garden, The Study at Morrison House, Rus Uz – Alexandria and Mai Thai. Returning participants include Columbia Firehouse, Del Ray Café, Jackson 20, The Majestic, Sunday In Saigon, Theismann's Restaurant and Urbano 116.

Time: All day

Location: Throughout Alexandria

Information: www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com

JANUARY 18

"A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER"

A distant heir to a family fortune sets out to speed up the line of succession by using a great deal of charm – and a dash of murder. This Tony Award-winning musical comedy is a murderous romp filled with unforgettable music, non-stop laughs and show-stopping performances. Shows run through Feb. 8.

Time: Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m.

Location: Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St.

Information: www.thelittletheatre.com

OLD TOWN MAKERS MILE

Come out to Old Town to pick up a new skill for the new year. Experience everything from paper and paint to fabric, yarn and more. Start at Stitch Sew Shop to check in and pick up a tote bag, which will serve as the ticket at each location. Everyone with a tote bag will have the opportunity to create at the make and take stations. Participating stores include fibre space, AR Workshop, Penny Post and Stitch Sew Shop.

Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: fibre space, 1319 Prince St.

Information: www.fibrespace.com

JANUARY 19

APOTHECARY MUSEUM GEEK TOUR: BEHIND THE SCENES

If the regular 30-minute tour of the Apothecary Museum just isn't enough, this tour should be perfect.

Spend more time touring the museum with an expert guide, including the rarely open basement and third floor of the historic pharmacy. The tour is recommended for adults only. Advance purchase is recommended due to limited space.

Time: 11 a.m. to noon

Location: Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105 S. Fairfax St.

Information: apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar

HOPPY HOUR: MEDITATION WITH BUNNIES

Head to Lost Boy Cider along with a fluffe of Lion-headed Bunnies visiting from Tripple Springs Farm for Hoppy Hour, a 45-minute "bunny experience," which includes a short, guided meditation focused on extending peoples' love for their pets to themselves and one another. The session will also include bunny snuggling and education. Included in the ticket is a post-practice beverage, either cider or non-alcoholic, house-made apple juice. Space is limited. Sessions occur on Jan. 19 and 26.

Time: 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Location: Lost Boy Cider, 317 Hooffs Run Dr.

Information: www.lostboycider.com

JANUARY 23

THIRD ANNUAL CIVIL WAR LECTURE SERIES

The Athenaeum is holding its third annual Civil War lecture series exploring various facets of this tumultuous time for both Alexandria and the nation. The first lecture is "Stories of Triumph and Loss" from Executive Director of the Carlyle House Andrea Tracey. She will explore the histories of the nurses, doctors, stewards, soldiers and Alexandria residents who found themselves at the Carlyle House property and the Mansion House Hotel in what was known as the Mansion House Hospital during the Civil War. Lectures also occur on Feb. 27 and March 26.

Time: 7 to 8 p.m.

Location: The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.

Information: www.nvfaa.org

JANUARY 26

SWING GATO CONCERT

Join The Athenaeum for a dynamic performance with Swing Gato, a gypsy jazz band that plays Belgian-French gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt's world-famous tunes as well as wonderful pieces of the American Songbook. In either case, the music always swings and the melodies are haunting.

Time: 6 to 7 p.m.

Location: The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.

Information: www.nvfaa.org

JANUARY 30

BIRTHNIGHT BALL DANCE CLASS

In preparation for George Washington's Birthnight Ball on Feb. 15, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. Those planning to attend the ball should attend and complete

at least one dance class to become familiar with the figures and language for the ball. Classes will be held Jan. 30, Feb. 6 and Feb. 13.

Time: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Location: Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.

Information: www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern

FEBRUARY 5

MEET THE AUTHOR: BOB LEVEY

During this month's Hooray for Books! adult book club meeting, read "Larry Felder, Candidate" by Bob Levey, who will be there to discuss and sign the book. "Larry Felder, Candidate" offers penetrating insights into the contemporary worlds of journalism and politics. The book traces the personal and professional challenges of a career newspaper columnist who decides to leave his comfort zone to pursue a more meaningful calling. Little does he know what lies around the corner.

Time: 7 to 8 p.m.

Location: Hooray for Books!, 1555 King St.

Information: www.hooray4books.com

FEBRUARY 8

JOHN CARLYLE 300TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Wish a very happy 300th birthday to Alexandria town founder, Col. John Carlyle. Festivities will include 18th century dancing, live music and a birthday treat. Admission is free, but donations are welcome.

Time: Noon to 4 p.m.

Location: Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St.

Information: www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park

UNDER THE SAME ROOF: EN-SLAVE AND FREE SERVANTS AT THE LEE-FENDALL HOUSE

Explore the Lee-Fendall House from the perspectives of the enslaved and free African Americans who lived and worked in the home as domestic servants, both before and after the Civil War. Hear the stories of the many people who built and shaped the Lee-Fendall House over the course of its history.

Time: 2 to 3:15 p.m.

Location: Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St.

Information: www.leefendallhouse.org

FEBRUARY 12

THE BEST TEAM KICK OFF

The BEST, or Building Employment Solutions Together, is the product of a partnership between Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund and ServiceSource. The BEST is a unique and inclusive community employment program for adults with disabilities. At this kick-off event, community members can learn more about the program.

Time: 5 to 7 p.m.

Location: The Loop, 215 N. Payne St.

Information: jpmfbest@service-source.org



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