

## Senior safety

**Care providers, facilities work to protect and engage at-risk population**

BY MISSY SCHROTT

One population that has been especially hard hit by the coronavirus is adults age 65 and older.

It's unclear how many older Alexandrians have tested positive for COVID-19, as the Alexandria Health Department is not releasing personal information, including age, about the 248 cases in

the city. Nevertheless, senior living facilities, nursing homes and senior services organizations throughout Alexandria are working hard to protect this vulnerable population.

While seniors are already at-risk because of their age, many also have underlying medical conditions, such as heart or lung disease, that put them at a higher risk for developing more serious complica-

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## Council discusses revised budget

**Staff presents FY2021 funding cuts to city leaders**

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

After releasing a revised FY2021 budget with significant cuts and changes on April 7, City Manager Mark Jinks and city finance staff brought the budget before council on Tuesday.

The financial and economic fallout from the coronavirus outbreak was significant enough to warrant city staff going back to the drawing

board and re-evaluating what FY2021 would look like for the city. Jinks' budget version 2.0 totals \$753.3 million, a 5.8 percent reduction from the original \$799.9 million proposed FY2021 budget.

"In mid-February I presented a budget of approximately \$800 million. The economy was growing, things were looking good. We looked to make some enhancements and some addi-

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PHOTO/CODY MELLO-KLEIN

The Birchmere had to cancel or postpone all shows through May and let go of the majority of its staff after the coronavirus hit.

## Live from quarantine

**Local arts organizations adapt to social distancing**

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

On Tuesday evening, the night singer-songwriter Vanessa Carlton was scheduled to perform at the Birchmere, the seats and stage at the venerable music hall were empty.

Due to social distancing measures put in place to combat the coronavirus, live music venues across the country have been forced to push back or cancel shows and let go of their staff. Theaters have stopped performances halfway through their seasonal runs. Audiences have

struggled to get refunds for tickets they purchased months ago.

In the age of social distancing, the figurative thousand miles of Carlton's biggest hit are suddenly a harsh reality.

The global pandemic is hitting hard across the entertainment industry, and local theaters and live music venues are feeling the effects even more acutely.

"There's a lot of small great clubs that are not gonna make it through this," Greg Oelze, owner of the Birchmere, said.

"I just started my 54th year at the Birchmere and I've had

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Resident arrested for violating quarantine order in Hawaii.

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Help older Alexandrians stay connected while isolating.

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Review of the Strokes' "The New Abnormal."

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**Wear a mask.  
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Help rid Alexandria of the new coronavirus by wearing a cloth facemask when you go out in public.



## Selected Sales in 2020

### Top Row — Active Listings

302 S Union Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | 4 bed | 3.5 bath | \$1,920,000  
 1118 Old Cedar Road, McLean, VA 22102 | 6 bed | 4.5 bath | \$1,645,000  
 606 President Ford Lane, Alexandria, VA 22302 | 5 bed | 5.5 bath | Under Contract

### Middle Row

Sold on 4/15/20: 6103 Olivet Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315 | 3 bed | 2.55 bath | \$735,000  
 Sold on 4/3/20: 3609 Bent Branch Court, Falls Church, VA 22041 | 3 bed | 3.5 bath | \$910,000  
 Sold on 4/3/20: 2428 Davis Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22302 | 4 bed | 2.5 bath | \$810,000

### Bottom Row

Sold on 3/17/20: 517 Queen Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | 3 bed | 2.5 bath | \$1,580,000  
 Sold on 1/16/20: 801 Wolfe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | 3 bed | 2.5 bath | \$1,026,000  
 Sold on 1/14/20: 823 Church Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | 2 bed | 2 bath | \$720,000

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WEEKLY BRIEFING

# State legislation allows city to remove controversial statue

Gov. Ralph Northam (D-VA) signed a piece of legislation on Saturday granting localities the authority to remove Confederate statues and monuments, a power previously held by the state.

The legislation directly impacts the Appomattox statue, which sits at the intersection of Prince and South Washington streets in Alexandria and has been at the center of an ongoing controversy in the city for years.

The Confederate statue, owned by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, was built in 1889 to commemorate those soldiers who left Union-occupied Alexandria and joined the Confederate Army. But the statue, like many Confederate memorials, is also part of a complex history.

“Obviously, there’s a lot

of history involved in this and there’s a lot of symbolism involved in this. I think for many of our residents this was a symbol of a battle that advanced the slavery of our fellow residents. I think for others of our residents, it symbolizes a history of those who died for a cause,” Mayor Justin Wilson said.

City council unanimously recommended that the Appomattox statue be moved to a lot outside the Lyceum in 2016. The city also advocated for state authorization to move the statue. This effort was blocked by Republicans in the state legislature, but was revived by Democrats after they won majorities in both the Virginia House of Delegates and the state Senate last November.

The city began a dialogue with the Daughters of

the Confederacy in January, knowing the legislation had a good chance of being passed. Conversations are ongoing, Wilson said. Because the Daughters own the statue and the City of Alexandria owns the land, a compromise will need to be agreed upon for the statue’s ultimate removal and display.

As for what will replace the statue, Wilson said ongoing concerns about traffic safety at the intersection – a driver crashed into the statue in December – means the spot might be empty in the future.

“My guess is that given so many residents also expressed concern just about the traffic safety aspect of that statue, it would be unlikely that we would put anything in that place,” Wilson said.

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# PK Move e-book available

PK Move, a nonprofit that offers parkour and natural movement programs, is now offering an electronic book download for seniors over 50, according to a news release.

The e-book, “PK Silver Forever: Your Parkour Fitness Toolkit (Pandemic Edition),” covers the basic exercises from the PK Silver Program and is targeted at seniors currently at home due to the state-wide stay at home order, according to the release.

Although PK Move has cancelled classes and in-person meetings at this time,

organization leaders hope the e-book will help seniors prevent falls and overcome other obstacles that could result in a hospital visit during the current public health crisis, according to the release.

The e-book download costs \$2.99 and all proceeds go to PK Move. Anyone unable to afford the e-book during this time can email admin@pkmove.org to have the cost waived. Visit [www.pkmove.org](http://www.pkmove.org) to learn more and for a direct link to download.

-landerson@alextimes.com



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## WEEKLY BRIEFING

## CRIME

## Health department reports four COVID-19 fatalities in Alexandria

A little over a month since the Alexandria Health Department reported the first case of COVID-19 in Alexandria, the city has reached 248 cases and four fatalities as of press time.

The increase in positive cases could be due to both more testing capacity through private healthcare providers and increased community transmission, according to a news release. However, an average of four out of five tests have come back negative, according to the release.

Although the number of

cases in the city continues to increase, a new model from the University of Virginia's Biocomplexity Institute and the nonprofit RAND Corporation reveals that physical distancing is helping to slow the spread of the virus statewide, according to the release. Data indicates that social distancing measures put in place on March 15 are making a difference.

For daily updates on COVID-19 in Alexandria, go to [www.alextimes.com/2020/04/coronavirus-in-alexandria](http://www.alextimes.com/2020/04/coronavirus-in-alexandria).

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## Alexandria woman arrested in Hawaii for quarantine violation

An Alexandria woman was arrested in Hawaii on April 10 for disobeying the state's quarantine orders, according to a news release from the Kauai Police Department.

Kauai police arrested 31-year-old Desiree Marvin of Alexandria and 36-year-old Hawaii resident Adam Schwarze after they ignored orders to immediately self-quarantine, according to the release.

For several weeks, Hawaii's governor has issued mandates attempting to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including a 14-day self-quarantine for visitors and residents returning from outside the state.

As of April 1, any person traveling between any of the Hawaiian Islands is also required to self-quarantine.

Marvin and Schwarze traveled on a Southwest Airlines flight from the island Oahu to Lihue Airport on the island Kauai. While stopped at an airport checkpoint, they were informed of the self-quarantine order and told to go directly to their intended lodging.

"After driving away from the checkpoint, they were observed turning in the opposite direction of their stated accommodations," the release stated. "A traffic stop was subsequently

initiated where they were informed again of the 14-day quarantine order and advised to proceed directly to their accommodations."

Less than two hours later, a Kauai police officer spotted Marvin and Schwarze's unoccupied rental vehicle in a Foodland parking lot at the northern part of the island. Upon exiting the grocery store, they were arrested and taken to jail, where they posted bail.

Marvin and Schwarze have an upcoming court date where they will be charged with a misdemeanor for the violation. If convicted, they face a possible fine of \$5,000 and up to one year in prison.

*-landerson@alextimes.com*



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**ARTS**

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some ups and downs and whatever, but I've never seen anything like this," Oelze continued. "I don't know how long I can keep my management staff together. There's absolutely no income."

Oelze is confident the Birchmere will make it through these tough financial times. He owns the building and has no debt to pay off, and, besides that, he doesn't plan on giving up on a place in which he's invested more than 50 years.

"Birchmere is not going to go out of business. That I can promise people," Oelze said. "I'm scared, but I'm not gonna hang it up though because I'm too proud of the place."

At first, Oelze cancelled shows two weeks out, but soon the reality of the situation set in. He cancelled every show through the middle of April. Then Gov. Ralph Northam issued a stay at home order until June 10, and Oelze had to drastical-

ly reconsider a meticulously planned tour schedule.

"If your restaurant [re] opens, you can call your staff and maybe have your place ready in a week or so," Oelze said. "But we're dealing with bands that have tours, so it takes sometimes a month to get a tour together."

The Birchmere's full May schedule will now have to be pushed back, and Oelze still isn't certain if his June shows are safe either, he said.

The Birchmere is enough of an institution that artists have remained loyal to the venue, even in these trying times. Some artists, including Gordon Lightfoot, have called to reschedule shows for dates in the fall, winter and even early in 2021.

Oelze's main concern is his employees, many of whom have been at the Birchmere for upwards of 20 years.

"The secret to the Birchmere's success is my staff," Oelze said. "Everybody's been there 20 years and that's what the bands like about the

club, is that they come in and nothing's changed. It's like a routine, you know?"

Unfortunately, the coronavirus has done nothing but disrupt routines, and that's forced Oelze, like a lot of venue owners, to make tough decisions.

"The first two weeks I kept

[my employees] on, although we weren't open, because I figured nobody was really panicking," Oelze said. "Then I had to let everybody go."

Oelze started a Go Fund Me campaign to raise money for his wage staff, tip staff and "kitchen kids." As of press time, the campaign had

raised \$41,850 of its \$50,000 funding goal. Contributions can be made at [www.gofundme.com/f/support-staff-of-the-birchmere](http://www.gofundme.com/f/support-staff-of-the-birchmere).

Although he has managed to keep eight managers on his payroll, they are not go-

SEE **ARTS**

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PHOTO/OFFICE OF THE ARTS

The city's Office of the Arts has started working with artists to stream performances live on Instagram.



Here's how The Peele Group has been working during these trying times!

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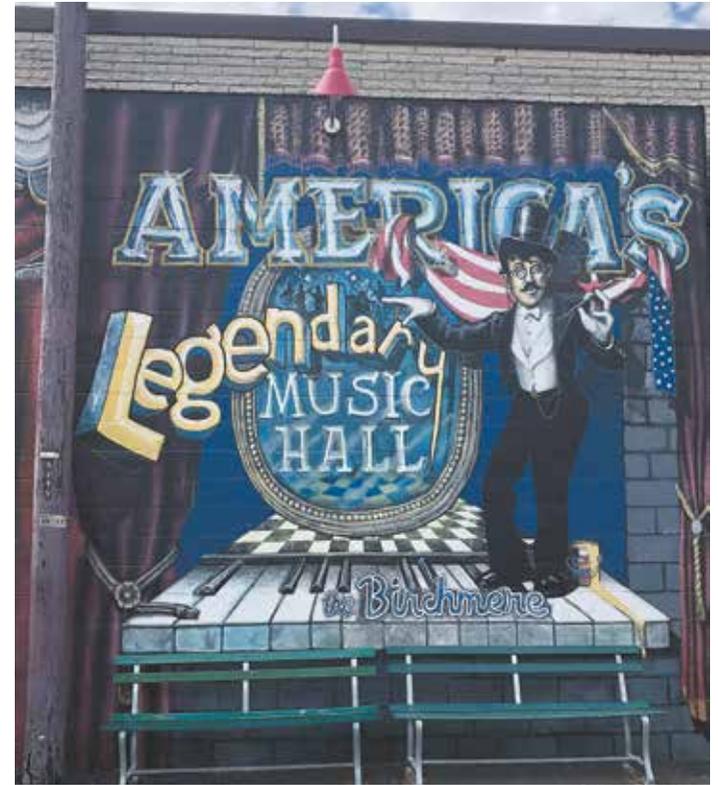
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PHOTOS/CODY MELLO-KLEIN

**Left:** The global pandemic hasn't diminished actors' enthusiasm for the Little Theatre of Alexandria's summer musical, "Sister Act."

**Right:** Although Birchmere owner Greg Oelze is confident his venue will weather the storm, he's concerned about small local venues in the area.

**ARTS**

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done a long time ago.”

ing into work at the venue every day “because I really don’t want them to,” Oelze said. Instead, they are doing odd jobs that “should’ve been

Like live music, theater venues are also suffering right now, as the live theater experience is based around forging in-person connections. There’s the emotional

connection built between performers and the audience and a communal one built among audience members.

On March 23, the Little Theatre of Alexandria notified its patrons that “Moonlight

and Magnolias” was cancelled halfway through its run on the stage. Two other upcoming shows – “Blue Stockings,” which was in rehearsals and set to start on April 25, and “Neil Simon’s Rumors” – were cancelled as well, along with upcoming classes.

Unlike the Birchmere, LTA is primarily volunteer-run, which presented challenges for the board.

“I have a full-time job ...

most of the people who are in charge of managing LTA all have other full-time jobs, and now suddenly this has pushed its way to its own full-time job,” LTA President Russell Wyland said.

Fortunately, LTA has been somewhat able to adapt its process in the age of social distancing.

Teachers and camp coun- for the board.

SEE **ARTS**

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ARTS

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selors have already started offering classes and camp programs online. And LTA still plans on moving forward with its summer musical, "Sister Act," which is set to run from July 25 to Aug. 15.

"It seems like it would be much more dire in a lot of ways because it's a live performance venue, but it's kind of fascinating watching the way people have sort of adapted without completely giving up," Rachel Alberts, head of public relations for LTA, said.

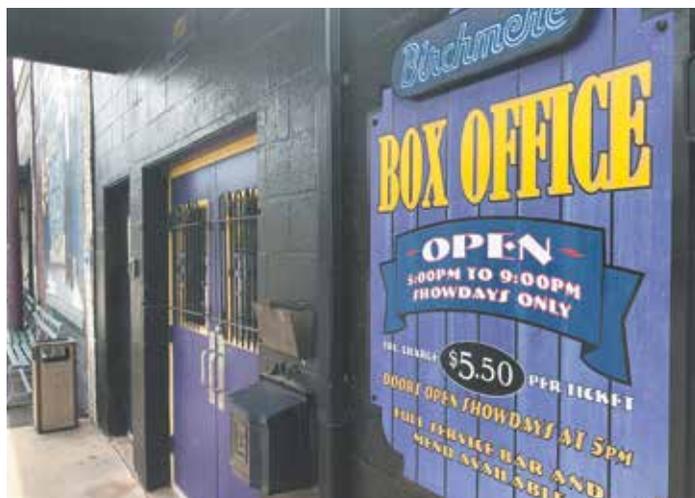
Instead of auditioning in person, actors have been auditioning through Zoom calls, and although it's been a new experience for LTA, Wyland was surprised to learn that, for many actors, remote auditioning was already the norm.

"Several actors have told me they audition for things by Zoom up in New York all the time, so converting has actually been more painful to us than to the actors," Wyland said.

Once there is a cast in place, the team behind "Sister Act" will have to figure out what they can and can't do remotely. Rehearsing songs and doing early character work can both be done remotely, which will give the team more time before it has to consider drastically altering its processes. Wyland hopes to start small group rehearsals in the theatre by mid-June but acknowledged that circumstances could still change to the point where that wouldn't be possible.

"First and foremost we want people to be healthy, and if that means – heaven forbid – at some point we have to cancel our summer musical, then that's what we have to do," Wyland said.

Wyland and Alberts noted that due to a sizable investment account, LTA is not struggling to keep the lights on at the moment. It has



PHOTO/CODY MELLO-KLEIN

In more than 50 years as owner of the Birchmere, Oelze said he hasn't seen anything as detrimental to his business as the coronavirus.

been able to retain its three full-time employees – all of whom are working remotely.

The LTA has offered patrons three different options when it comes to tickets for cancelled shows. Patrons can donate the cost of the ticket to LTA, get a total refund or get credit to put toward an upcoming show. So far, about 50 percent of patrons have donated the cost of their tickets to LTA, Wyland said.

The city's Office of the Arts has also found creative solutions in trying times, including an Arts at Home series that features weekly performances from local artists streamed live on Instagram.

The idea came out of necessity, Diane Ruggiero, deputy director of the Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Department, said.

City staff had planned on recording and broadcasting a performance from David Schulman at the Torpedo Factory, before Northam's stay at home order halted those plans. The Office of the Arts worked with Schulman, who didn't even have an Instagram account, to create an account and stream his performance remotely, Ruggiero said.

"We kind of have two agendas with this: One was to give our community a chance to engage with quality arts programs because that's what we

do. That's kind like our mission. But the other one was to pay artists," Ruggiero said.

The series produces simultaneously intimate and inclusive performances, broadcast directly from the artists' homes to local audiences and music lovers across the country. A performance by the Eric Byrd Trio reached more than 1,000 people.

"Artists have been so amazing of sharing their time and their talent and their homes," Ruggiero said. "This is now becoming a very personal experience that folks are seeing where people are living and where they really do their work a lot of the time."

For weekly schedules and details on where to find each program, follow @alexartsoffice on Instagram.

One question remains: After the coronavirus, will audiences want to return to theaters and live music venues? Storm clouds are still overhead and the peak in new coronavirus cases isn't expected in Virginia until the end of April, but local venue owners are hesitantly hopeful.

"Theater has always been something that can touch on or trigger emotions, help people understand the world around them, and maybe we'll come out of this and we'll realize how important that is. I hope," Wyland said.

-cmelloklein@alextimes.com



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# Wear a mask. Save a life.

One of the best ways to exercise caution and help slow the spread of the coronavirus is to wear a facemask when you must go out in public.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended wearing cloth face coverings in public to slow the spread of the virus from people who don't know they have the virus to others in the community.

To encourage residents to wear masks, the Alexandria Times is launching a new competition. Each week for the next several weeks, we will publish a photo spread of well-known Alexandrians wearing facemasks. The readers who are able to identify the most

mask-wearers will be entered in a drawing for a local restaurant gift card.

This first week, we've included the photos of 12 masked Alexandrians, from local politicians to business and community leaders. To enter the competition, email the names of as many masked Alexandrians as you can identify to [mschrott@alextimes.com](mailto:mschrott@alextimes.com). The readers who correctly identify the most people will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 gift card to various local restaurants, beginning this week with Chadwicks. The winner will be announced in next week's paper and notified by email.

Stay safe, and happy guessing!



## Business mask pledge

We are offering local businesses the chance to publicly state that they will require their employees to wear facemasks while at work through June 10 or the conclusion of Northam's stay at home order. Email [mschrott@alextimes.com](mailto:mschrott@alextimes.com) to take the pledge.

*The following establishments have taken the pledge:*

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| Fontaine Cafe            | 119 S. Royal St.     |
| Kaizen Tavern            | 1909 Mt. Vernon Ave. |
| Landini Brothers         | 115 King St.         |
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| Port City Brewing        | 3950 Wheeler Ave.    |
| R&B                      | 1710 Mt. Vernon Ave. |
| Sonoma Cellar            | 207 King St.         |
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PHOTO/HERMITAGE NORTHERN VIRGINIA

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**SAFETY** FROM | 1  
tions from COVID-19.

A severe outbreak at a nursing home in Richmond, Virginia has demonstrated how dangerous the virus can be for seniors. Canterbury Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center reported its first positive COVID-19 diagnosis on March 18. As of press time, 45 of the facility's 160 residents have died as a result of the virus, according to the Associated Press.

Hermitage Northern Virginia, a retirement community in Alexandria, reported that a resident tested positive for COVID-19 on April 8.

"On the afternoon of Tuesday the 7th, the resident started exhibiting some mild symptoms – fever, dry cough – so our team decided, in light of everything that's going on, that we really should send her out for testing," Chris Henderson, chief executive officer of Pinnacle Living, the company that manages Hermitage Northern Virginia, said.

The resident was sent to Inova Alexandria Hospital, where she was tested the same day, on April 7. By the

evening of April 8, Hermitage received notice that she had tested positive.

Henderson declined to provide the name, age or current condition of the resident. He said he did not know how she had contracted the virus.

Since the resident tested positive, Hermitage staff have been taking extra precautions.

"The area where the resident lived has nine other residents, so we're treating all of those residents as if they have potentially been exposed, and that's out of an abundance of caution," Henderson said. "We worked with their families and their responsible parties to notify them what's going on."

Should more residents begin exhibiting symptoms, Hermitage has plans in place to transform one floor of its healthcare center into

a quarantine ward, in order to separate residents and team members who are exhibiting symptoms from those who are not, Henderson said.

Hermitage, in addition to several other long-term care facilities in Alexandria, began taking precautions in response to the coronavirus more than a month ago.

Hermitage's leadership team began working on strategies in early March. By March 5, they began restricting visitation. Less than a week later, they had increased restrictions and began taking the temperature of anyone entering the facility.

Goodwin House Incorporated, another senior living and health care services organization in the city, estab-

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## BUDGET

FROM | 1

tional capital investments,” Jinks told council. “Well, a few weeks later, that budget was history, and we had to go back to the drawing board.”

Between the current fiscal year and the end of FY2021, the city expects a combined \$92.2 million revenue shortfall, with a \$35.8 million gap in FY2020 and a \$56.4 million gap projected for FY2021.

Dramatic reductions in the city’s projected tax revenues precipitated the slimming down of the FY2021 budget. The original FY2021 proposed budget estimated about \$699.3 million in total tax revenue. The revised FY2021 budget includes about \$650.1 million in tax revenue, a 7 percent, or about \$49.2 million, reduction.

Several key branches of the city’s tax revenue stream have diminished projected revenue, including the real estate tax, restaurant meals tax and transient lodgings tax.

It’s worth noting, however, that while the 2-cent increase in the real estate tax rate has been shelved for this year, the property value assessments – which took place before the economic downturn – will not be revised.

The city is operating with a set of revenue assumptions, Morgan Routt, director of management and budget, said at the council meeting: that the current economic crisis will continue to June, that the long road to recovery will begin in July and that the city will have returned to FY2019 levels of revenue by the end of FY2021.

However, there are major unknowns still hovering over the entire process. When will the state hit its COVID-19 peak? Will there be repeat outbreaks? How long will it take local businesses to recover? And how will consumer behavior change after things settle down?

“The duration and sever-

“ We are deferring capital – and we’re deferring a lot of it – and we know for sure, because we know from experience, that that capital is going to get more expensive every single year we defer it.”

– Mayor Justin Wilson

ity of the crisis is still unknown, the long-term impacts on the economy are to be determined, and yet we are in the middle of a budget process and we need to be able to prepare a budget plan for FY21,” Routt said.

Going into budget crunch time, Routt said staff knew that it would be difficult to reduce department resources given reductions made last year. The city had already asked departments to make 2.5 percent reductions across the board last fall, meaning any further reductions would result in service or staffing

reductions, Routt said.

“If we were to implement department service reductions within the shortened timeframe that we were looking at, likely departments would have been put in the position of developing reduction options on a short turnaround time while trying to deal with the pandemic,” Routt said.

The tightened turnaround would leave less time for city staff to review those options and even less time for council and the public to provide feedback.

Instead, budget staff focused on deferring expen-

diture increases, capital improvement projects and the proposed 2-cent real estate tax increase.

Mayor Justin Wilson acknowledged the city’s tight timeline but questioned several assumptions made by city staff.

“... We are necessarily assuming that anything that was supplemental and proposed for addition in this budget is of less importance than the things that are proposed for continued funding. And that’s not necessarily the case,” Wilson said.

“We are deferring capital – and we’re deferring a lot of it – and we know for sure, because we know from experience, that that capital is going to get more expensive every single year we defer it,” Wilson continued.

Routt agreed with Wilson’s points but said that timing was staff’s critical consider-

SEE BUDGET

| 11

# Wear a mask. Save a life.



You can proactively help rid Alexandria of the new coronavirus by wearing a cloth facemask when you must go out in public. By wearing a mask, you help prevent community spread of the coronavirus and help protect the most vulnerable in our community.



**BUDGET** FROM | 10

ation: Staff wanted to ensure enough time for council to deliberate and the public to provide input throughout this abbreviated budget process.

Wilson also expressed concern that the budget was written and proposed based on the assumption that the economy would return to a state close to what it had been before the crisis. He cautioned staff that dramatic, difficult tradeoffs may have to be made moving forward.

The revised operating budget removes \$12.2 million in proposed city employee compensation improvements. That includes implementing a hiring freeze – with certain exceptions – and deferring the proposed 1.5 percent pay scale increase, merit increases, career ladder elevations and targeted pay increases for public safety officers.

The revised budget also defers \$2.1 million in supple-

**“ In mid-February I presented a budget of approximately \$800 million. The economy was growing, things were looking good. We looked to make some enhancements and some additional capital investments. Well, a few weeks later, that budget was history, and we had to go back to the drawing board.”**

– Mark Jinks, city manager

mental initiatives, including a \$505,000 expansion of the Early Childhood Program; reduces the Alexandria City Public Schools fund transfer by \$7.4 million and the DASH transfer by \$400,000; makes \$22.4 million in cash capital reductions; and saves \$6.3 million in additional operating funds. There are also several new expenditures aimed at responding to the coronavirus: an additional \$4.3 million for the city’s response, an assumed \$2 million in federal assistance and \$7.9 million pulled from the city’s use of fund balance.

The assumed federal and state funding would go to-

ward 18 new positions in the Alexandria Health Department in order to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. The city will not authorize the hiring of those positions until the money is available, Jinks said.

“Two million is, I think, going to be less than what we’re going to eventually see. ... We could have a significant reimbursement on the moneys we have been sending so far and potentially significant dollars above and beyond that,” Jinks said.

The \$2 million set aside for federal assistance does not include potential funds from

another piece of proposed federal legislation that would allow localities to apply to make up for running losses on their budgets. Wilson clarified that the \$2 million is currently in contingent reserves and is subject to release from council at a later date.

Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker asked when state funding for local COVID-19 response would be released to localities. Although no date has been set, Jinks said he anticipates state funding coming to localities within the next few weeks.

The budget also includes a \$140.6 million reduction in

the proposed CIP budget for FY2021 focused on projects that have been funded but not yet begun, projects that are in early planning stages but have not yet moved into construction and ongoing capital programs.

The majority of the CIP reduction – \$134.2 million – is due to proposed deferrals for the first phase of the Waterfront Park flood mitigation plan and T.C. Williams High School Minnie Howard campus project.

The budget process is set to continue this weekend with a public hearing for the revised budget, effective tax rate and add/delete items on Saturday. To ensure proper social distancing, the public can submit comments online at alexandriava.gov/budget.

Two council work sessions to finalize add/delete items will be held on April 21 and 27, and council is still set to adopt the budget on April 29.

-cmelloklein@alextimes.com



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# BETTER *with* AGE

INSIDE:

Making your end-of-life wishes known.

Pg. 14

## Help your neighbors stay connected

BY CELE GARRETT

In the best of times, our older neighbors are at the greatest risk of feeling socially isolated and lonely. This is especially true during the COVID-19 pandemic, as these very same folks are most at risk if they were to catch the virus, so they are exercising every caution to keep themselves safe.

It's a trying time for all of us, especially our older residents. Yet, I see so much evidence of the wonderful ways our citizens are connecting with one another right now. Alexandrians have always been caring and generous – and lately they've become pretty creative in the ways they're going about it.

At Woodbine Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Alexandria, the 307 residents were encouraged when they received handwritten cards from Alexandrians. The project was initiated by the Facebook group "Alexandrians Supporting Alexandrians During COVID." Woodbine kept the cards "in quarantine" for 48 hours before delivering. In addition, a Girl Scout troop from Charles Barrett Elementary School wrote handmade cards to Woodbine's caregivers.

The other day, a car drove up to Silverado Memory Care and some kids hopped out to hang homemade colorful banners along the fence. These were family members of residents who wanted to thank the professionals caring for their loved ones whom they cannot see in person. In



CELE GARRETT

addition, a homemade face-mask-making initiative has been heartening.

It's more important than ever to check in with your friends and neighbors right now. A friend recently let me know that she was checking in regularly with a mutual friend. She calls ahead to tell her when she'll hang a new batch of bananas on her backdoor handle.

And though seniors are a population of concern right now, everyone is experiencing some level of stress. Even though most people are now donning masks in public, we can still speak when passing by someone, nod our head to acknowledge them and smile with our eyes.

Though nothing can replace in-person contact, technology has presented some wonderful solutions. For one-on-one connections, FaceTime and Skype are great standbys. Recently, an 80-year-old Alexandria acquaintance told me she had used FaceTime to connect with her 16-month-old great-grandson. He was comfortable with the idea of staring at the screen when she appeared and reached for her. Even at his very young age, he wasn't fazed by this virtual

connection.

If you know someone who is eager to connect with family or friends through video but needs some help learning a new technology tool, reach out to see if you can offer them a phone or online tutorial.

The other evening, my friend and I simultaneously watched the same episode of our current favorite Netflix series while using the feature Netflix Party on our respective computer screens. We were able to use the "chat" feature to make our usual colorful commentary throughout the show.

Other people are telling me they and their friends are reading the same book together and having an im-

promptu phone "book club" discussion. House Party, Google Hangout and Zoom can be good group video platforms. Just be sure to add security to your meetings so you don't have any unwelcome visitors. At Home in Alexandria is working hard to take our programs and events to the virtual realm using Zoom to help keep our members and volunteers connected and entertained while we stay at home.

Fred Rogers' wisdom continues to serve us during these uncertain times. We recall his well-known story: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers.

You will always find people who are helping.'"

The health care workers, the caregivers at our senior living facilities and the first responders are all helpers, but remember that we are helpers too. Our children are learning first-hand that the kind gestures they make to their neighbors right now matter. This troubling time is providing them with an experience they will always remember, and it will help shape who they become.

*Cele Garrett is the executive director for At Home in Alexandria, a member-driven, nonprofit village that builds and sustains a 55+ community to successfully navigate aging.*

## Our hearts are full.

We want to share our gratitude for all of our hardworking, compassionate associates who are caring for our residents and keeping their days alive with love and joy during this trying time.

We are also humbled by the outpouring of kindness from our current and former resident families who have sent meals, treats and gift cards for our team.



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## SENIORS

# Make your end-of-life wishes known

BY JENNIFER SARISKY

When you're ill and unable to speak for yourself, where would you like to be and with whom? What kind of care would you want?

Most of us don't think about these questions or discuss them with our families. Some of us have difficulty talking about end-of-life issues. Some fear death, while others believe they are young and healthy and don't need to make these decisions. For these reasons, April 16 has been designated as National Healthcare Decisions Day.

Healthcare Decisions Day was initiated to raise awareness of the importance of planning ahead for healthcare decisions, particularly end of life care,

when a person is unable to speak for him or herself. The goal is also to encourage the specific use of a medical directive to communicate these important healthcare decisions.

According to The Conversation Project, 97 percent of Americans say it's important to put their wishes in writing, but only 37 percent have done so. Living wills, healthcare powers of attorney and advanced medical directives are tools to assist with advanced care planning.

A living will is a written document that specifies what medical treatments you want to be used to keep you alive. Living wills often include your wishes regarding organ donation or pain management. A healthcare

power of attorney allows you to appoint a person to make medical decisions and act on your behalf if you are unable to make these decisions. An advanced medical directive combines a living will and a healthcare power of attorney.

Five Wishes is a similar document to an advanced directive that can serve as a comprehensive guide to assist with making end of life care decisions. For more information on Five Wishes, go to [www.agingwithdignity.org](http://www.agingwithdignity.org).

When reflecting on your wishes, it may be helpful to focus on a few key areas. Think about your physical comfort, such as pain, breathing and even physical environment. Consider your mental and emotional

needs. Would you want to talk about fears or concerns with someone or be kept free from anxiety if possible? Finally, consider your spirituality and whether you would want your religious community involved.

Deciding who you would want as your decision maker is also important. Select someone who is a trusted advocate and would adhere to your wishes and values.

After completing these documents, discuss your wishes with your family, friends and physician. Your appointed healthcare power of attorney and physician should have copies of these documents easily accessible.

The State of Virginia has an Advance Directive Registry that allows you to file your advanced directive so



**JENNIFER SARISKY**

that your health care provider and loved ones can find a copy of your directive if you are unable to provide one. For more information and for free forms go to [virginiaregistry.org](http://virginiaregistry.org).

*The writer is a family services specialist for the Division of Aging and Adult Services with the Department of Community and Human Services.*

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# Times Living

## ARTS

# New Strokes record proves inaccessible for newcomers

BY ANDY DUNBAR

The Strokes changed the indie rock scene forever with the release of their debut album “Is This It” in 2001. Filled with an irresistible set of catchy pop rock cuts about the tumultuous lives of New York City youth and woven together by Julian Casablancas’ iconic distorted vocals, the record peaked at number 33 on the U.S. Billboard 200. The record influenced a generation of rock musicians while catapulting the fledgling band to stardom. Two years later, the group proved they were here to stay on their sophomore outing, “Room On Fire,” which featured stronger production and bolder instrumentation than their debut album.

The following decade would prove riddled with strife, as middling efforts (“First Impressions of Earth,” “Angles”) and drama within the group derailed a promising start for a band that was once touted in the press as “the forefathers of a bold new era in rock.”

Casablancas’ disdain for stagnancy resulted in repeated departures from the group’s established niche in the garage rock revival that he and his bandmates had started, and a side project by the name of The Voidz. The discordant “Comedown Machine,” released in 2013, was seemingly the last Strokes album – until last Friday.

“The New Abnormal,” if little else, is an ode to long-time Strokes fans. The record feels like a joyride through the various soundscapes of their previous five albums and influences, for better or for worse.

From the opening – and best – track, “The Adults Are Talking,” the band assumes their rebellious songwriting persona. Casablancas quietly riffs about the self-important working world that he and his friends rejected over a fast-paced drum beat and a classic Strokes chord progression.

The electric guitar arrangements and punchy drum mixes reminiscent of “Room On Fire” and “Angles” permeate the album’s 45-minute runtime. Casablancas’ falsetto introduced on “Comedown Machine” makes appearances on “Selfless” and “Endless Summer.” The pleasantly dirty vocal production featured on “Bad Decisions” throws it back to “Is This It.” And the oppressive guitar crescendo on “Endless Summer” and synth bassline of “Not The Same Anymore” capture the edge of “First Impressions.”

The band’s signature cryptic lyricism adopts a mature introspective tone this time around. Tracks delve into failed relationships: “And now it’s time to show up / Late again, I can’t grow up / And now it’s on me, they’ve

given up” (“Not The Same Anymore”); Casablancas’ alcoholism: “One shot is never enough / I just wait for us to go in circles” (“Brooklyn Bridge To Chorus”); and the departure of youth: “Gone now are the old times / Forgotten, time to hold on the railing” (“Ode To The Mets”). It’s an organic development from their youthful angst of the early 2000s and results in the most lyrically refined Strokes album to date.

Unfortunately, due to the heavy focus on rehashing the sounds of their past, the end result is an album that does not offer much merit on its own, but rather serves as a victory lap, a final chapter in the Strokes discography that dips its foot in the band’s various sounds of the past 20 years without committing to any of them.

And while the lyricism holds strong, the instrumentals offer nothing new. The most egregious example would be the single “Bad Decisions,” a track that is almost identical to Billy Idol’s 1981 hit “Dancing With Myself.” The similarity is so blatant that fans have struggled to rationalize the imitation. A forgiving interpretation would be that the song is about their own influence and other artists attempting to be like the Strokes (“Oh baby, I wanna hang on everything you say / I wanna write down every word”), but this



PHOTO/RCA RECORDS

Cover art for the Strokes’ “The New Abnormal,” released on April 10.

is a slippery slope. At the end of the day, you cannot mimic another musician this closely and call it an artistic expression.

“Selfless” is another uninspired track that features Casablancas’ autotune whining over a plucked guitar instrumental that sounds like a scrapped Coldplay bonus track from 2002. What makes these slip-ups even more frustrating is that on the same album, the band shows that they know how to tastefully pay homage without crossing the line. They do this most notably on “Brooklyn Bridge To Chorus,” a track driven by an ‘80s

inspired synth organ riff.

This album should have been legendary. It should have been exactly what a devastated New York City needed from one of their brightest talents in April of 2020 after a seven-year hiatus. But when the 45 minutes are over, only a fraction of its listeners will be satisfied.

“The New Abnormal” feels like a series finale of a show that started off strong, lost its footing in later seasons and then tried to tie it all together. Viewers who have been watching since the premiere will be satisfied. Viewers just tuning in will be bewildered.

## HOMES

## Spring into dreams of summer



PHOTO/JENSEN LEISURE FURNITURE

Inspired by Danish mid-century modern design, Jensen Leisure Furniture's new Forte collection features a duo of outdoor wicker weaves nestling into an ipe wraparound frame.

**Part 1 of 2**

BY ELAINE MARKOUTSAS

Have we ever been more anxious to spend time outdoors?

With today's new norm of staying in place, the strangest spring in memory is largely in lockdown mode until we get COVID-19 tamed. But that doesn't mean we can't dream about the summer days when we can stretch

out on a chaise, grill to our heart's content and drink a few cold ones with friends.

And since many of us now have the luxury of time, we can plan like never before. Prep that outdoor space. Clean the grill – then use it. Acquire some new skills – culinary techniques and dishes – before your official welcome-to-summer soiree. You might even hone your presentation skills for the debut of

“social undistancing.”

We've been getting heartening messages from furniture manufacturers, like the Spanish company Andreu World: “For all the good times that will surely come.”

While many manufacturers are shuttered, others are still doing business. And retailers are welcoming customers to their websites, where there are guides galore for outdoor living.

It seems so long ago that we were introduced to 2020 collections, this past fall at the Casual Furniture Market in Chicago and the more recent international trade show Maison and Objet in Paris. There is a lot to offer.

An overarching trend, of course, is the furthering of the cohesive outdoor rooms that mimic gathering places indoors, for drinking, cooking, dining and lounging. All

of which translates to comfortable furniture in a wide range of styles, colors, patterns and textures.

Seating and dining are the main areas of interest, but so are fire features, outdoor kitchens and pergolas, or some kind of sheltered space. Also, some manufacturers appear to be taking cues from the contract sec-

SEE **DREAMS**

| 17

# HOMES

**DREAMS** FROM | 16

tor – products designed for offices, hospitality and hotels. They're looking to integrate battery chargers or USB ports for phones and laptops into seating or tables.

To frame those professional outdoor grills, fridges, wine coolers and the like, there now are more options for cabinetry, most recently at retail home stores such as Pottery Barn. In Europe, there's more of an integrated approach, and we're seeing more of these all-in-one concepts that include built-in sinks, grills with optional fridges, wine preservers and ice makers at Italian brands Ethimo and Talenti.

The next installment will explore what's on tap for 2020.



PHOTOS/MISSONI

A sleek, modern, modular, padded chaise lounge and island sofas in the colors of the sky and sea are complemented by organic patterns and stripes.



PHOTO/KANNOA

White continues to gain traction in outdoor style. White sculptural seats and tabletop pop on teak frames with the new Santorini collection from Kanna.

**HOME OF THE WEEK**

## Rarely available townhome across from Founder's Park

Welcome to 125 Queen St., a classic townhouse that offers essential amenities such as a garage and outdoor space, while also showcasing traditional architectural details, such as high ceilings. Brandt townhomes were built in the 1970s, but offer a blend of modernity and the traditional architecture of colonial Alexandria.

Situated in the heart of Old Town, this home is just steps away from restaurants and shopping, the farmers' market, Founder's Park and the Old Dominion Boat Club.

The home has an abundance of natural light that shines through the floor to ceiling windows. Hardwood floors on all levels of the home, as well as freshly painted rooms in neutral palettes, make it a



COURTESY PHOTOS

move-in-ready property.

The kitchen includes recent updates such as top of the line appliances and soap stone counter tops. The recent

bathroom renovations also showcase Carrera marble. The master bathroom was renovated with Carrera marble for floors, shower and counters,

as well as custom cabinetry and lighting.

The downstairs family room can be used as a second living space or a second home

**AT A GLANCE**

**Address:** 125 Queen St.  
**Neighborhood:** Old Town  
**Price:** \$1,769,000  
**Bedrooms:** 3  
**Baths:** 3.5  
**Square footage:** 3,360  
**Contact:** Ana and Melissa team  
 Ana Rivas Beck and Melissa Schultz  
 Weichert Realtors  
 703-772-3526

office. The outdoor patio, which is secluded and private and perfect for outdoor living, offers lounging and grilling on a sunny day.

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## Our View

# Revised budget demonstrates city manager's strengths

When City Manager Mark Jinks released his original fiscal year 2021 budget back in February, we, like many in the city, were appalled by the 6.8 percent increase in taxes that the average Alexandria homeowner was projected to owe – before counting in rising sewer and water fee rates.

The double-whammy of a two-cent increase in the tax rate coupled with significantly higher real estate assessments meant the average city residential tax bill was set to rise by \$428. Even in the midst of a booming economy – remember those days? – that tax hike, which was three times the rate of inflation, seemed excessive.

Of course, the world has turned upside down in the intervening two months, as the novel coronavirus has resulted in a virtual shutdown of the U.S. economy, along with 248 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and four related deaths in Alexandria.

The situation called for a budgeting turnabout, and Jinks' 2.0 effort reflects the difficult times that have befallen our city and our nation.

Several capital improvement projects that were slated to get underway in FY2021 have been pushed back, most significantly the \$103.7 million rebuild of the T.C. Williams High School Minnie Howard campus project. One notable exception is the Douglas MacArthur Elementary School rebuild, which was farther along in the process and will continue on schedule.

While Alexandria's budget reboot was a necessity driven by forces beyond anyone's control, the resulting product is a reflection of Jinks' skill as a budget crafter.

It's worth noting that Jinks became city manager five years ago this week, after having spent the prior 16 years working first as Alexandria's chief financial officer – our chief budget crafter – and then as a deputy city manager.

Developing Alexandria's budgets remains Jinks' strong suit. We have marveled in prior years at his ability to often present reasonable, balanced budgets without excessive tax increases. While FY2021 version 1.0 did not do that, this budget revision is a reflection of his skill.

## The launch of 'Wear a mask. Save a life.'

Throughout this week's paper, readers will see references to the Alexandria Times campaign to encourage residents to wear cloth facemasks when they need to leave their homes. Facemasks, combined with continued physical distancing will help prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus.

On page 8 is our first collage of mask-wearing residents and city leaders. The reader who can identify the most mask-wearers will receive a \$50 gift certificate to Chadwicks restaurant in Old Town. In the case of a tie, a drawing will be held to determine the winner.

Also on page 8 is an initial list of restaurants and other businesses that have taken the Alexandria Times "Wear a mask pledge" to have 100 percent of their employees wear cloth masks while at work in an effort to prevent what is called "community spread" of the coronavirus.

We encourage other businesses to email Times editor Missy Schrott, at mschrott@alextimes.com, if they are willing to take this pledge. While not enforceable, the pledge is a statement of trust that these businesses are doing all they can to protect Alexandrians, as they remain open to serve the community.

Finally, look for our PSA campaign designed to raise awareness about mask wearing, and please help us spread the word: Wear a mask. Save a life.

# Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson



## Your Views

# Land use meetings are suspended

To the editor:

While a number of civic associations have recently asked the city to temporarily suspend all public meetings related to land use based on Gov. Ralph Northam's stay-at-home order, this is already the case.

Following city council's adoption of emergency meeting procedures on March 24, the city cancelled nearly all public land use meetings until June. The only exception is the April 22 meeting of the Board of Architectural Review, which will be held online for the sole purpose of addressing applications for small cell facilities, which by federal law must be reviewed within a specific timeframe or they are automatically approved.

All other meetings of that board, along with the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals, have been cancelled until June. The city has also cancelled a number of meetings of advisory panels such as the Carlyle/Eisenhower East Design Review Board and the Potomac Yard

Design Advisory Committee.

A few developers have hosted online information sessions or posted information about planned projects and invited community feedback. These projects are not scheduled to go to public hearing until late spring or fall, which will allow conventional methods of outreach and consideration by the city's civic associations and other concerned stakeholders.

The limited number of virtual or online forums that have occurred have provided information about projects that will not come to public hearing until after the "stay at home" order is expected to be lifted. Specifically, the North Potomac Yard/Virginia Tech Innovation Campus proposal is scheduled to go to public hearing in June, the Galena Partners proposal is scheduled to go to public hearing in September and the Oakville Triangle project will go to hearing in late 2020.

-Karl Moritz,  
director, Planning and Zoning

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.

## City leaders need to procure coronavirus tests and masks

To the editor:

Before people can gather again, we need widespread testing for the coronavirus, as the WHO and a German study have revealed that most people spreading the coronavirus have either none or mild symptoms that may include upper respiratory symptoms. The CDC didn't warn us about this, and thus those people are not getting tested or quarantined.

Once identified, those with a positive test should be quarantined. This is the first step before allowing people to gather again, and if we don't do this, we will surely have a second wave of infection.

This means we need Alexandria's city government to wake up and get tests for all adult Alexandria residents ASAP. And in August, they need to get tests for all Alexandria children before they can return to school.

Caregivers at nursing homes and medical facilities should be tested at the beginning of every shift – the city needs to get going on this to protect our elderly population,

patients and caregivers.

Further, we need N95 masks for all residents and caregivers. The N95 mask is not perfect as it may not block the virus, which is .12 microns in diameter and the mask is rated for .3 microns, but it is the best thing available. With evidence that the virus can be suspended in the air for some time, this is critical.

It is not wise to go into grocery stores without an N95 mask, so we need help delivering food in the meantime. We need Alexandria's city government to procure masks for its residents ASAP. The sooner this happens, the sooner we can start to get back to gathering again.

The coronavirus or SARS2 is the most recent warning after SARS, Swine Flu, MERS and Bird Flu about the dangers of wet markets in urban areas. Given this, the chicken slaughterhouse city council recently approved for Alexandria is irresponsible.

-Chris Hubbard,  
associate researcher, Georgetown  
University Medical Center

## Please no city-run coronavirus testing

To the editor:

The notion of Alexandria's city hall taking the lead on coronavirus testing is frankly frightening. To prove why, we can start by going back through your past editorials chronicling a pattern of serious ethical, public engagement and competence failures.

Imagine the hash our city hall – which can't even successfully recycle glass, purposefully prioritizes unused bicycle lanes over creating a traffic jam on a major arterial, has a school surrounded by half-million dollar homes lose accreditation and disappears a Metro station's south entrance without telling anybody so that the public has to learn about it inadvertently from some concept drawing in a WMATA report – would make of coronavirus testing?

The city manager and other city staff make enormous salaries, but we don't pay them enough to expect them to perform miracles.

The city manager has his hands full with an unanticipated fiscal crisis and running what's left of day-to-day city business.

The Inova hospitals all have the highest 5 out of 5 rating from the Center for Medicare Services; they are excellent hospitals with high concentrations of the full range of health care professionals – far more than the small group of state- and municipal-level health regulators.

Individual and group practice physicians and health maintenance organizations like Kaiser which consume entire buildings and have all their patients' records are far better suited to prioritize the limited number of test kits that can be deployed and analyzed than our city hall which, to its credit, understands that a catastrophe could result from putting it in charge of coronavirus testing.

-Dino Drudi,  
Alexandria



Justice Matters

with Bryan Porter

## Understanding the governor's emergency orders

During the past month, the coronavirus pandemic has continued to seriously impact the city. Since there have been new developments with regard to the governor's emergency orders, I thought that it would be useful to update those orders and their effects on the citizenry in this month's column.

On March 20, Gov. Ralph Northam (D-VA) issued an amended version of an earlier emergency order. The amended order contains several important provisions: It allows the state health commissioner to order the immediate closure of any restaurant in order to prevent the spread of the virus and it reaffirms a restaurant that allows more than 10 patrons to congregate inside is subject to the immediate suspension of its business license.

On March 23, Northam issued Executive Order 53, which includes several new restrictions backed by potential criminal sanctions. EO-53 prohibits public or private in-person gatherings of more than 10 persons, meaning that even a party in a private residence constitutes a violation. All schools are closed for the remainder of the school year.

The order also requires all restaurants, breweries and wineries to significantly restrict public access. Dining establishments are prohibited from allowing the public to congregate in dining areas although businesses may remain open for takeout or delivery. All theaters, gyms, salons and barbershops were ordered to close.

The order also outlines a list of essential businesses that are allowed to remain open. The list is lengthy and includes grocery stores, automobile parts stores, home improvement stores, banks, laundromats and dry cleaners. While these businesses are exempt from the order, they are specifically encouraged to utilize social distancing and enhanced sanitation procedures.

EO-53 exempts several specific

activities from closure or restriction, such as provision of medical services, access to essential services for low-income residents, activities of the media and operation of the government.

On March 30, Northam issued Executive Order 55, entitled "Temporary Stay at Home Order." The first paragraph of the order requires Virginia residents to stay in their place of residence whenever possible and to remain at least six feet from any other person when outside of their residence.

The stay-at-home paragraph of EO-55 includes several exceptions, allowing individuals to leave their residences to, among other things: obtain food, seek medical attention, visit family, exercise outdoors and travel to and from work. Importantly, the order does not provide for criminal sanctions against persons suspected of violating the stay-at-home requirement.

Northam did reiterate that persons engaged in private parties of more than 10 people could be subject to criminal penalties. Additional provisions of the March 30 order closed all in-person instruction at institutions of higher education and all public beaches.

I note that while the use of face-masks in public is encouraged, as of yet, the failure to use a mask does not constitute a criminal violation.

During the current crisis the courts remain open, albeit on a limited basis. Given that they require large numbers of persons to congregate in a small space, non-essential court hearings and trials are being continued until the pandemic abates. Alexandria courts continue to hear essential proceedings such as advisements and bond motions.

My office is staffed by a skeleton crew so that we can cover the limited number of court appearances that



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PORTER

SEE PORTER

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# OUT OF THE ATTIC

## Alexandria's early public transportation

Long before Metro expanded to Alexandria, way before we had vintage looking trolleys, Alexandria had a different version of public transportation. The early attempts to connect Alexandria to other parts of the Washington D.C. area through mass transit came in the 19th century – and required animal participation.

Horses were used by Alexandria's residents as early as 1749, when the city received its first charter. In 1864, The Alexandria City Railroad Company received a charter to lay tracks the length of King Street, over Duke, through West End, ending in Federal Hill.

Like some other famous transportation schemes, namely the Alexandria Canal, the company wasn't able to meet its promises and lost its charter. But the idea didn't die with the company. In 1872, the Virginia General Assembly approved the incorporation of the Alexandria Passenger Railway Company.

The plan was to start at Ferry Wharf at the foot

of King Street, go up King Street to the corner of Fayette Street by the Virginia House hotel, and then run south on Peyton Street to the stone bridge which crossed Hoof's Run on Duke Street. Six cars were the entirety of the operation, which would be pulled by a single horse for most of the route, and by two horses over the incline between Lee and Fairfax streets.

Despite delays in the construction of the line, the operation was initially successful. The railway was inaugurated on June 12, 1873 and began regular service three days later. During a span of 48 hours during the railway's first week of operation, 1,224 passengers paid the nickel fare to ride the horse-drawn cars. This success was enough for the company to order a seventh car.

In the minds of northern Virginians, the railway signaled not only the advance of technology, but the possibility of suburban living. A writer for the Loudon Enterprise predicted that, "one of the good effects of

(Alexandria's) street railway will be to crown the grace of heights west of the city with elegant private residences, where her business men can enjoy the pleasures of both town and country ..."

Despite its initial acclaim, the reversal in fortunes came quickly for the Alexandria Passenger Railway Company. Within two weeks, the first major accident claimed the life of a three-and-a-half year old girl. Two months later, the trolley was involved in two incidents on the same day. One of those accidents also involved a child, although this time there were no fatalities.

City council tried to mitigate future safety issues by passing legislation in December that prohibited the idling of other vehicles "for a period longer than 5 minutes, so as to obstruct the passage of the cars of the ... Railroad."

Despite these measures, ridership decreased rapidly, and in July 1874, one year after the enterprise launched with such promise, the railway suspended its service. By the end of

the month, potential buyers were visiting to inspect the equipment, expecting it to be sold at auction. While company directors tried to resurrect the operation in October 1874, the stockholders overwhelmingly voted to sell the cars and lease the route. One of their complaints was that the working and middle classes had ridden the cars, while the upper class "preferred ... paying shoemakers for leather to riding in the cars."

Several times, Alexandria residents tried unsuccessfully to revive the company, and three of the horsecars were sold to Richmond for their street railway by April 1875. The city began to tear up the rails in September 1875. It would be 17 years before Alexandria allowed the next attempt at public transportation in its streets – the Alexandria, Washington, and Mount Vernon Electric Railway.

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

## PORTER

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are ongoing. We also are here to serve the public. Should a citizen need the assistance of my office, for obvious reasons I would ask they call us instead of physically visiting

the courthouse.

Finally, I would like to praise our counterparts in the criminal justice system for a coordinated and thoughtful approach to the current crisis. Stakeholders such as the Public Defender's

Office, the Sheriff's Office and the Office of the Clerk of Court have diligently worked with us to reduce the number of incarcerated citizens in the Alexandria jail.

My office is agreeing to release on a case-by-case

basis when doing so is consistent with public safety. My understanding is the jail population has been substantially reduced.

*The writer is Commonwealth's Attorney for Alexandria.*

## Weekly Poll

### Last Week

**The CDC has asked residents to wear cloth face masks in public. Will you comply?**

**39% I wear a mask only in crowded places like grocery stores.**

**37% I wear a mask every time I leave the house.**

**10% I won't wear a face mask.**

**8% I don't yet have a face mask but have ordered one.**

**6% I plan to get a face mask.**

### This Week

*Take the poll at alextimes.com*

**When the governor deems it safe to "reopen" the state, how willing will you be to go to a live show, eat out at a restaurant or participate in other public activities?**

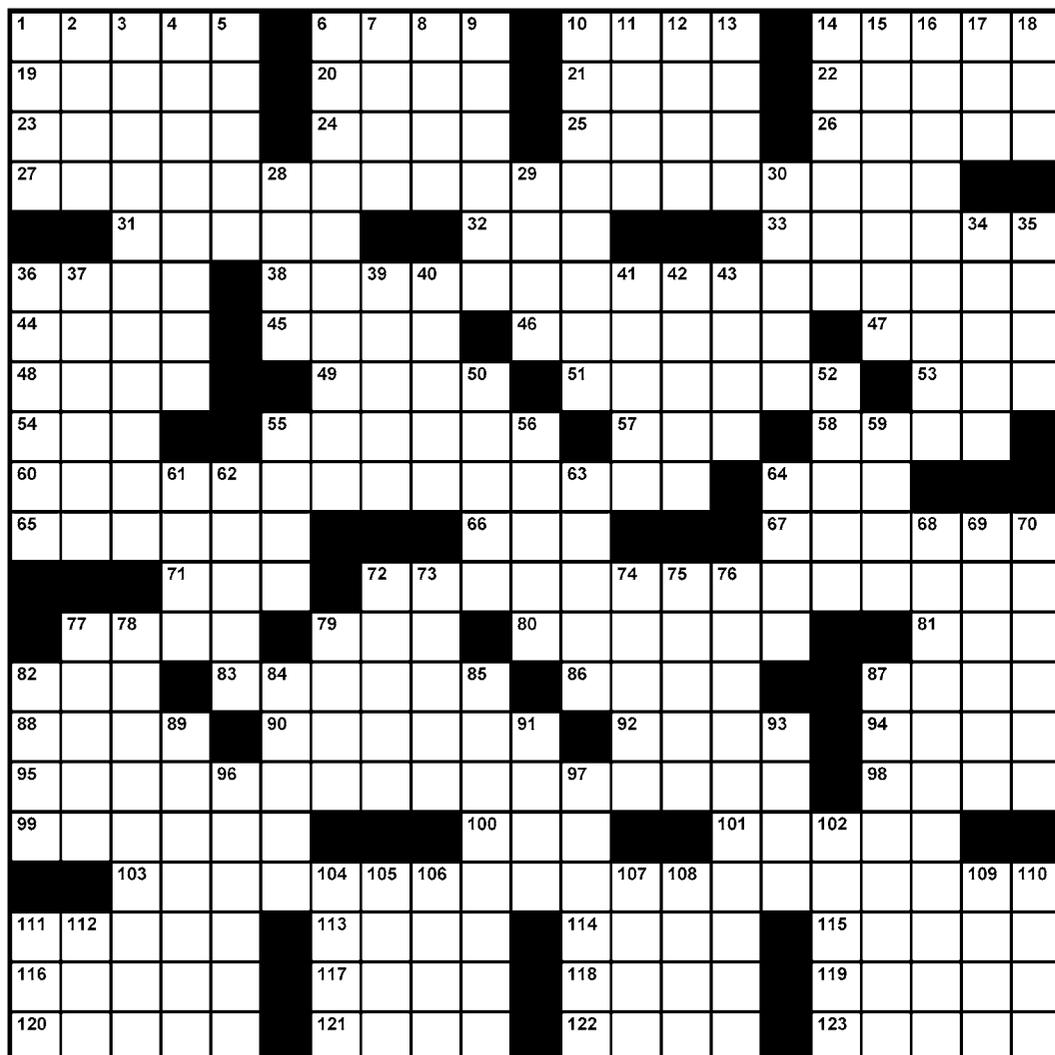
**A) I will be very willing. I miss these activities.**

**B) I will be somewhat willing. I will test the waters first.**

**C) I will be somewhat hesitant and wait a few days.**

**D) I will be very hesitant and continue quarantining.**

# Weekly Words



## DESSERT DILEMMA by Christopher Adams and Steve Faiella edited by David Steinberg

### ACROSS

1. Training group
6. Like a wet noodle
10. Sour candy morsel
14. Caramel Hershey candies
19. Bay window
20. The Buckeye State
21. Gym shoe woe
22. Muse of love poetry
23. "If \_\_\_ Street Could Talk"
24. Large quantity of fabric
25. Formal ceremony
26. "Bad and Boujee" trio
27. Choice about buying a fruity dessert with ice cream?
31. Praise highly
32. "Certainly, monsieur"
33. Remove one's approval, on Facebook
36. Adidas competitor
38. Bargains that may influence you to buy a tart dessert?
44. Cause of many computer errors
45. Tehran's country
46. Threw
47. Dalmatian marking
48. "Buenos \_\_\_!"
49. Small metal fastener
51. Fashionable Fisher
53. Anti-vaping ad, e.g.

54. Addams cousin
55. Felt sorry for
57. NASA thumbs-up
58. Passes with flying colors
60. Internal conflict about buying a dessert with a graham cracker crust?
64. "Proly not"
65. Some Met stars
66. "I'm \_\_\_ roll!"
67. Egyptian beetle
71. Temper tantrum
72. Sample that may entice you to buy a custardy dessert?
77. 5,280 feet
79. Small battery
80. Donkey's sound
81. Tough spot
82. Like moldy food
83. Confident step
86. Snare or tom-tom
87. Bit of praise
88. Felipe in MLB history
90. Madden
92. Apple of Discord thrower
94. Adidas competitor
95. Judgment about buying a swirly breakfast dessert?
98. What Jack Sprat's wife couldn't eat
99. Modern acknowledgment
100. Holly Holm's combat sport,

- for short
101. Coffee brand
103. Ice cream and meringue dessert that you finally bought?
111. Director Sam
113. Neural transmitter
114. Tied
115. Settlement-building game
116. Elected (to)
117. \_\_\_ bar (mai tai venue)
118. Saag paneer go-with
119. Build
120. System of belief
121. Home of Laos
122. Hit, as a fly or a homer
123. "Floppy" data holders

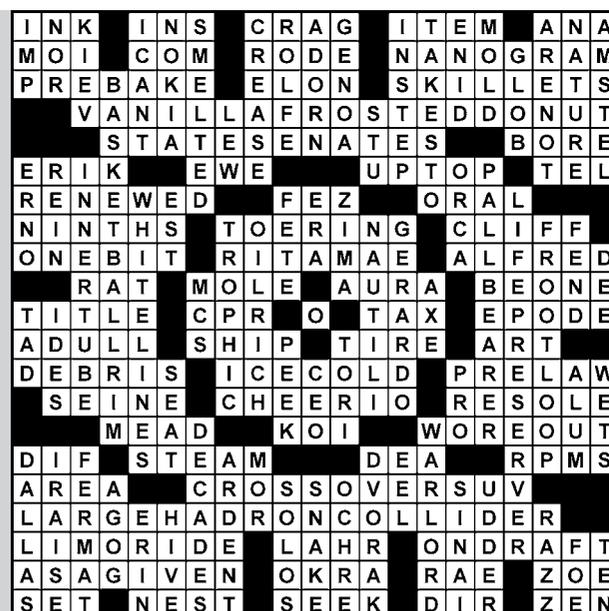
### DOWN

1. Salad with bacon
2. Realm of expertise
3. Best Actress after Faye Dunaway
4. They make hair easier to straighten
5. Colleague of Sonia
6. Maine course need?
7. Flapjack chain
8. Rumor spreader?
9. Magical liquid
10. Bygone Quebec NHLer
11. "Tommy" star Falco
12. Campus cadets' org.
13. Square root of neun

# DEATH NOTICES

- CARIN BEASLEY** (54), of Alexandria, March 27, 2020
- HAROLD T. BLANKENSHIP** (76), of Alexandria, April 11, 2020
- WILLIAM BRICKHILL** (82), of Alexandria, April 8, 2020
- FREDERICK M. CAMPBELL** (82), of Alexandria, April 10, 2020
- CATHERINE FURLONG** (94), of Alexandria, April 6, 2020
- ROGER KINDER** (72), of Alexandria, April 10, 2020
- ALICE LAUTHERS** (93), of Alexandria, April 6, 2020
- TOM NGUYEN** (67), of Alexandria, April 11, 2020
- SHIRLEY POWELL** (91), formerly of Alexandria, April 7, 2020

## Solutions from last week



14. Jog the memory of
15. Baltimore birds
16. Small gift for a customer
17. Ear doctor's prefix
18. Sailor's "Help!"
28. "For \_\_\_ care ..."
29. Derriere
30. Blue shoe material
34. "Project Runway" host Karlie
35. This, in Tijuana
36. One at a certain beach
37. "Am I missing something?"
39. Ana's "Knives Out" role
40. TV studio sign
41. Dickens' Heep
42. Distribute
43. Smell like a dump
50. Crusoe creator
52. Civil rights org.
55. "Check this out!" noise
56. "Queen of the Blues" Wash-ington
59. Spicy Indian tea
61. Texter's "That's hilarious!"
62. Iroquois tribe members
63. Played Fortnite, perhaps
64. (This is risque)
68. Breathes new life into
69. Easternmost U.S. national park
70. Cry over
72. Scottish terrier variety
73. Picker-upper tool?
74. Author of a novel with no E's (although this answer has two)
75. "Star Trek" officer
76. Members of one household, often
77. Elder Obama daughter
78. "No need to fear me!"
79. Tuscan river
82. Composer J.S.
84. Home of ASU
85. Extreme self-importance
87. Desert where the lions may sleep tonight
89. Like many lions
91. Trees that line streets
93. Talk while drunk
96. Jujitsu relative
97. Los Angeles team
102. Emailed surreptitiously
104. Stuff to crunch
105. Center of revolution
106. "Thor: Ragnarok" role
107. Declare
108. Org. fighting for faux fur
109. Hit the \_\_\_
110. Tolkien's sentient trees
111. "Arabian Nights" bird
112. Mortgage figure, for short

# Classifieds

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## SERVICES

**DIVORCE-** Uncontested, \$395+\$86 court cost. WILLS \$195.00. No court appearance. Estimated completion time twenty-one days. Hilton Oliver, Attorney (Facebook). 757-490-0126. Se Habla Espanol. BBB Member. https://hiltonoliverattorneyva.com.

## LEGAL NOTICE



### City of Alexandria Public Notice

**City Invites Public to Comment on Two Local Water Quality Total Maximum Daily Load Action Plans to Protect Local Waterways**

The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit – the City’s stormwater permit issued by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) – requires the City to update two local total maximum daily load (TMDL) action plans developed initially in

2015. Action plans outline strategies to limit the amount of a pollutant entering a waterway. The (1) Bacteria TMDL Action Plan addresses sources of bacteria for the Hunting Creek, Cameron Run, Holmes Run, and Four Mile Run and the (2) Tidal Potomac PCB TMDL Action Plan addresses legacy PCBs as most new sources have been controlled. The current action plans are publicly available as on the City’s TMDL webpage at alexandriava.gov/52652. **The deadline for public comment is Friday, May 1, 2020.**

The public is invited to comment in writing on the updated (1) Bacteria TMDL Action Plan and the (2) Tidal Potomac PCB TMDL Action Plan via email at MS4Program-Plan@alexandriava.gov. Comments may also be submitted via regular mail to the address below. Due to the current operating status of facilities, if you would like to drop off comments, please schedule a time to come by calling 703.746.4127.

Transportation and Environmental Services  
Stormwater Management Division  
Attn: Local TMDL Action Plans  
2900-B Business Center Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22314

The action plans will be submitted and approved by VDEQ prior to incorporation into the MS4 Program Plan. Comments received will be incorporated as applicable and may be shared with the Commonwealth, as requested.

**ABC**  
Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority • www.abc.virginia.gov • 2001 Hermitage Road • Richmond, VA 23220 • (800) 552-3200

**RETAIL LICENSE APPLICATION—PART 2 (POSTING AND PUBLISHING)**  
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Please publish the following item in the legal notice section of your newspaper. Please refer to the instructions provided on page 5.

(Full name(s) of owner(s)) **Syk Family Inc**  
If general partnership, enter partners' names or name of partnership. If LP, LLP, LLC or corporation, enter name as recorded with the State Corporation Commission. If association or tax-exempt private club, enter name. Only if a sole proprietor, enter first, middle and last name.

Trading as: **Krunch & Noodles**  
(trade name)

**277 S Van Dord St Ste 100**  
(exact street address where business will trade)

**Alexandria**  
(city/town)

**Alexandria** **Virginia** **22304-4303**  
(county) (state) (zip + 4)

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a **Wine and Beer On Premises** license  
(type(s) of license(s) applied for)

to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

**Sung Ye Kim** **President**  
(name and title of owner/partner/officer authorizing advertisement)

**NOTE:** Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Small text at bottom: 8/15/19 Item 1171910. This is an official state document. All information contained or indicated therein is public information. Please refer to general statement by registering government information. Follow instructions provided regarding copyright with questions. Retail License Application, page 11

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PUBLISHING NOTICE

Please publish the following item in the legal notice section of your newspaper. Please refer to the instructions provided on page 5.

(Full name(s) of owner(s)) **Piece Out LLC**  
If general partnership, enter partners' names or name of partnership. If LP, LLP, LLC or corporation, enter name as recorded with the State Corporation Commission. If association or tax-exempt private club, enter name. Only if a sole proprietor, enter first, middle and last name.

Trading as: **Piece Out**  
(trade name)

**2419 Mount Vernon Ave**  
(exact street address where business will trade)

**Alexandria**  
(city/town)

**Alexandria** **Virginia** **22301-1352**  
(county) (state) (zip + 4)

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a **Wine and Beer On Premises, Mixed Beverage Restaurant** license  
(type(s) of license(s) applied for)

to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

**Lawrence Ponzi III**  
(name and title of owner/partner/officer authorizing advertisement)

**NOTE:** Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.



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PHOTO/HERMITAGE NORTHERN VIRGINIA

The "Neighborhood Buggy" at Hermitage Northern Virginia travels from floor to floor with goodies, helping bring treats and fun to residents while they can't gather together.



PHOTO/MISSY SCHROTT

Goodwin House Alexandria is located at 4800 Fillmore Ave.

## SAFETY

FROM | 9

lished an Infection Precaution and Planning program in late February. Since then, a team has been meeting daily to review efforts, monitor overnight guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local health departments and update infection precautions as needed, according to Lindsay Hutter, chief strategy and marketing officer with Goodwin House Incorporated.

Sunrise Senior Living in Alexandria also expanded its evidenced-based infection control program in response to the virus in February.

Regardless of when they began, most senior living facilities in Alexandria have implemented similar precautions, including restricting visitation, practicing screening protocols, closing communal spaces within the facility and using personal protective equipment.

However, like many hospitals, healthcare providers, nonprofits and businesses nationwide, Alexandria's senior living facilities are also struggling to acquire PPE.

"Unfortunately, personal

protective equipment is our biggest challenge at this point in this outbreak," Henderson said. "We have adequate gloves, we have plenty of surgical masks, the cloth surgical masks. Our big shortage right now are the N95 masks.

"We were hopeful that with this diagnosis in Alexandria, that the Northern Virginia Healthcare Coalition and the Alexandria [Health Department] would help us with some supplies there," he continued. "We received supplies from them last night and this morning and there are very, very few N95 masks that are in that shipment. We're also very short on protective gowns. We're using what we have, but because we're using them for all residents who potentially have been exposed, we go through them very quickly."

With all the precautions in place, many seniors are feeling more isolated than ever. To help fend off boredom and keep residents engaged, several Alexandria facilities have replaced physical activities with remote gatherings.

"Our life enrichment teams ... have shifted in-person activities to live

streaming of programming, movies, lectures and more," Hutter said in an email. "They also have delivered activity kits to residents, and each week, we feature learning moments which residents can access online from their apartments."

Hermitage has challenged the phrase "social distancing," encouraging residents to remain socially engaged and posting regular activity updates on its Facebook page.

"We like to use 'physical distancing' rather than 'social distancing,'" Henderson said. "Physical distancing with social engagement is going to be the key for all of us to get through this."

While nursing homes and long-term care centers are at-risk locations for an outbreak, seniors living outside of these facilities in the community may also be struggling during this time.

"A lot of our older adults are already isolated, so being home during this virus really creates some concern," Pamela Austin, aging and disability resource coordinator with the city's Division of Aging and Adult Services, said.

Resources from food de-

livery to phone call check-ins are available for Alexandria seniors through the city.

The Division of Aging and Adult Services has continued offering some of its regular programming, such as its homemaker service, which allows older adults in the community to get support with cleaning, laundry or hygiene needs. They've also introduced some new resources, including a frozen meal delivery service.

"This is really for older adults who really would not qualify under our traditional program – that before the pandemic hit, they were able to go out and do their grocery shopping, do their own cooking or have someone to do it for them," Austin said. "Now, because we want to make sure that the older adults are staying home and safe, we've added in this frozen meal option. So basically, twice a week, we are delivering frozen meals."

For more information about resources available for older adults in Alexandria, visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Aging](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Aging) or [SeniorServicesAlex.org](http://SeniorServicesAlex.org).

In trying times, community members have contin-

ued to show compassion for those in need, and several people are directing these good deeds toward the senior community.

"There's been a lot of great stories," Austin said. "Just within our own staff, we have people who are taking vans and helping people to get tested. We do have people that are delivering the meals that would not normally deliver meals, taking time out from their day to do that."

St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School has developed a student-resident buddy program with residents at Goodwin House, through which students and seniors are partnered to become mutual supporters. Residents in a Facebook group called "Alexandrians Supporting Alexandrians During COVID" initiated an effort to send handwritten cards to Woodbine Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Alexandria.

Numerous other stories have demonstrated that the Alexandria community is rallying around its vulnerable populations to help ease the pain of the coronavirus.

*-mschrott@alextimes.com*



# Peter B. Crouch

## 50 & Better Moving Specialist



## Weathering the Storm

In nautical language, we here in the Port City are “battening down the hatches” to protect ourselves and our neighbors. But one thing is true of all storms: they pass. This one may take some time, but it too will pass.

Even as we take extreme precautions, though, housing needs continue to change. Sellers are still selling. And Buyers are still buying. Just in a brave new way. Virtually.

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