

Quarantine Halloween

Alexandria health department cautions against trick-or-treating

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

For the first time in more than a decade, Lee Street won't be the Halloween spectacular it usually is.

With COVID-19 cases still on the rise and the Alexandria Health Department advising that residents forego trick-or-treating this year, several of the city's Halloween traditions have been reimagined.

Trick-or-treating on Lee Street, the city's biggest unofficial Halloween celebration that attracts thousands every year, is cancelled, ac-

ording to Lee Street residents.

While police typically close Lee Street to vehicles on Halloween each year, the event is not city-sponsored, so the city cannot officially "cancel" Halloween on Lee Street. Instead, residents of Lee Street are taking it upon themselves to let people know most porch lights will be dark this Halloween. In addition, the Alexandria Police Department will neither barricade the street nor station officers at the event.

"Many of the neighbors on the street have said they're just going to turn their lights out and take a year off," Lee Street resident Lee Dunn said. "... There's

just not as much of a sentiment from neighbors that I've heard about opening up their homes to hand out candy. I think people are nervous."

Dunn has received a lot of calls from friends about whether Lee Street will be open to trick-or-treaters. She said she's been trying to discourage people from gathering on Lee Street to minimize the health risk that a massive crowd of trick-or-treaters would pose.

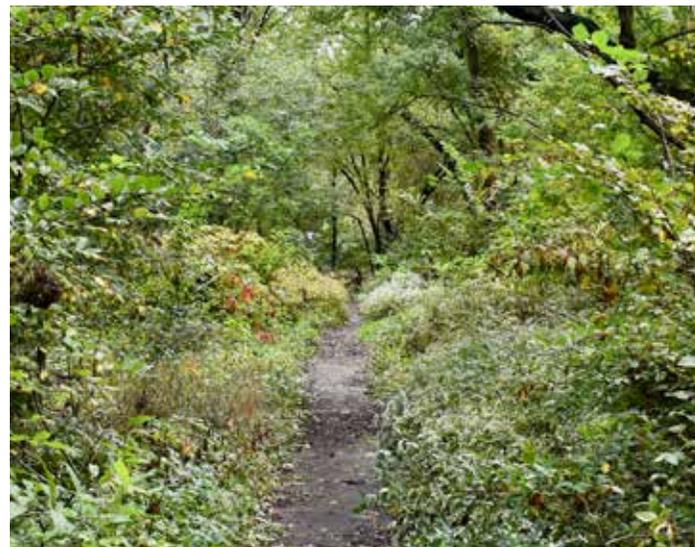
Like many people throughout the city, Dunn and her neighbors are finding other ways to celebrate Halloween this year. Dunn is

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PHOTO/CODY MELLO-KLEIN

A collection of ghosts on North Latham Street.



PHOTO/MISSY SCHROTT

The walking path through Chinquapin Park, which runs adjacent to the Taylor Run stream.

Taylor Run restoration plan criticized

Environmentalists question benefits, decry sacrifice of 269 mature trees

BY MISSY SCHROTT

Is reducing pollution in the Chesapeake Bay worth cutting down 269 trees in Alexandria? This is the question at the heart of the city's Taylor Run stream restoration project.

The city intends to restructure 1,900 linear feet of the Taylor Run stream in Alexandria to slow the down-

stream flow of phosphorous, nitrogen and sediment caused by erosion. Since the project would allegedly reduce the amount of pollution traveling from Taylor Run into the Potomac River and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay, it would help the city meet its Chesapeake Bay pollution reduction requirements.

However, local environmentalists, civic associations and residents are question-

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Legal trailblazer Bernie Cohen dies at 86.

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Preparing for flu season in the era of COVID-19.

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VICTORIAN HILLS

\$1,300,000 – Under Contract

This hidden gem has approx. 250K in upgrades and improvements .. stunning custom wood French doors to the main level entry foyer featuring a spacious open floor plan perfect for large scale entertaining or intimate family holiday gatherings (when we get back to that!!) This beautifully appointed home features approx. 3,500 sq ft of refined living space on a 10,664 sq ft LOT!



NORTH OLD TOWN

\$985,000 - SOLD

Beautifully renovated end brick row home with covered front porch and fenced-in front yard with a white picket fence!! All the wonderful features of a 1920's home with the updates and modern amenities and touches! Exposed brick walls in various rooms, 9ft+ ceilings, mouldings, refinished red oak wood floors throughout, freshly painted interior & oversized windows.



ROSEMONT

\$895,000- SOLD

Classic 1930's bungalow with inviting covered front porch located in sought after Rosemont. Modern meets vintage, the charm of yesteryear with the conveniences of today! This charming 3/4 bedroom, 2 bath home sits on a lovely landscaped lot with plenty of living space inside and out. Original hardwood floors on main level, updated kitchen with white cabinetry, SS Bosch appliances, granite countertops and gas cooking.



PARKER GRAY

\$765,000 - Under Contract

Quintessential Old Town charm with OFF STREET PARKING. Recently updated this END row home has 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths and wood floors throughout. Freshly painted and all the bells and whistles: Nest thermostats, smart switches and more-Professionally landscaped yard is out of a magazine: fenced yard, decking & dining area, exterior lighting and retractable awning!



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\$295,000 - Active

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WEEKLY BRIEFING

City opens additional in-person absentee voting locations

The City of Alexandria is making three new locations available for early voting, according to a news release.

Residents will be able to vote in-person absentee – cast their vote prior to election day – at the Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St., from Oct. 23 to 31, except Sundays, from noon to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, noon to 6 p.m. on Fridays and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

Absentee voting will also be available at T.C. Williams High School’s Minnie Howard Campus, 3801 W. Braddock Road, and George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mt. Vernon Ave. Both locations will be open on Oct. 24 and Oct. 31 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to the release.

All three sites will have ballot drop boxes available during their open voting hours.

The deadline to submit an in-person absentee vote is Oct. 31 at 5 p.m., and all registered voters in Virginia are eligible to cast an absentee vote. Absentee voting by mail is also available as an option, but the deadline for an absentee ballot by mail is Friday.

For more information about the election visit www.alexandriava.gov/Elections.

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DASH goes green with six electric buses

Alexandria’s DASH buses just got a lot quieter.

DASH unveiled six zero-emission electric buses on Monday, a move toward 100% green transportation. DASH currently uses diesel and hybrid fuel engines but aims to make the switch to 100% zero-emission buses by 2035.

Gov. Ralph Northam stood side-by-side with local officials and DASH staff to unveil the buses on Monday.

The first six electric buses in DASH’s fleet, along with charging stations, were purchased using \$5.1 million of the \$12 million DASH received in state funding on July 24

to allocate to electric buses. About \$9 million of that funding comes from the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust, the result of the state’s settlement with Volkswagen after the company violated the Clean Air Act.

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Donate candy to a good cause

The Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority is collecting unopened bags of candy for its Halloween Coat Giveaway on Oct. 31.

The event will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Charles Hous-

ton Recreation Center. ARHA plans to give more than 1,000 coats to Alexandria kids, as well as books and candy.

Residents who wish to donate candy to the event can drop off unopened bags at the

Ruby Tucker Family Center, located at 322 Tancil Court, by Oct. 28. The center is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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VéloCity bike co-op celebrates 10th anniversary

The Del Ray-based VéloCity Bicycle Cooperative is celebrating 10 years of serving the Alexandria community.

John Patterson and Christian Myers co-founded the community-based, volunteer-run bicycle shop in May 2010. The co-op is known for its community services including its Bicycle Scholarship Program, which helps low-income families obtain bicycles, and its “do

it yourself” operations.

VéloCity’s 10th year has been an interesting one. Like a lot of bicycle shops, the co-op experienced a sharp increase in sales due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Peak bicycle season normally runs from May through mid-July, but this year, peak season started in March when the pandemic hit the region, Myers said.

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ADOPTABLE PET OF THE WEEK



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Council approves demolition of Heritage buildings

City denies resident appeal, determines structures are not historically significant

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

City Council unanimous-

ly affirmed the decision of the Board of Architectural Review to approve demolition of The Heritage, a 244-unit apartment complex located at 413 S. Columbus St., during Saturday's public hearing.

With council's affirmation, developer Asland Capital Partners has the green light to demolish four buildings: one six-story apartment building and three

three-story apartment buildings. Asland plans to build a 777-unit apartment building in The Heritage's place, but the new development has not been approved yet.

Council's consideration of the project comes after residents appealed the BAR's Sept. 2 approval of the permit to demolish the four buildings. Since the Heritage falls within the Old and Historic Alexandria District, the BAR was tasked with determining whether the buildings were architecturally or historically significant enough to warrant denying the permit. The board, ultimately, determined that the buildings did not meet that criteria.

The Heritage buildings were constructed as part of an urban renewal project in 1975 in The Bottoms, a neighborhood that was home to a Black community that had been in the area since 1790.

"I and the majority of the board did not feel that the physical buildings were required to maintain that history and that these buildings were built poorly in a manner that was discriminatory against those that lived in the neighborhood at the time," Purvi Irwin, a member of the BAR, said.

As owner and operator of the Black history-focused tour group Manumission Tour Company, Councilor John Chapman said he researched The Heritage while preparing for an upcoming tour. He said he found that although the neighborhood of The Bottoms is historically significant, The Heritage site itself was formerly a street and railroad. The site will not be included on his tour, Chapman said.

BAR board members, councilors and city staff agreed that although the buildings are not historically

significant, the site itself and the history it represents are worth protecting.

Councilor Amy Jackson proposed placing a plaque or other historic signifier at the site to acknowledge the history of The Bottoms.

Some appellants spoke to their concerns about the historic importance of the site. Others, such as Maureen Dugan, said there is a feeling among neighbors that there hasn't been sufficient opportunity for public input.

Stafford Ward, a resident who lives in the 600 block of South Columbus Street and spoke in support of the appellants, expressed concern about when and how Heritage tenants would be relocated.

Alexandria Housing Director Helen McIlvaine clarified that residents would be relocated from one building to another on the site or to another nearby complex following COVID-19 safety protocols.

"There would be no period of time where residents would not be fully housed," McIlvaine said.

In a preliminary relocation timeline presented by Cathy Puskar, the lawyer representing Asland, the tenant relocation process would begin in November 2020 with residents getting introduced to tenant relocation coordinators. The earliest possible date of relocation would be Sept. 1, 2021, Puskar said.

Councilor Del Pepper made a motion, seconded by Councilor Canek Aguirre, to affirm the BAR's decision and deny the appeal. Council approved the permit unanimously.

A BAR concept review of the proposed new development took place Wednesday evening after press time.

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**CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN
and Dia de los Muertos
WITH LOWER RISK ACTIVITIES**

The City of Alexandria and the Alexandria Health Department strongly urge residents to choose celebration activities identified as lower risk by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as shown below.

LOWER RISK
Carve a pumpkin
Decorate your home
Virtual costume contest
Family movie night at home
Decorate masks for loved ones
Make traditional family recipes
Treat scavenger hunt in your home

MODERATE RISK
Physically distanced outdoor parade
Physically distant apple or pumpkin patch
Grab-and-go self-serve premade goodie bags
Visiting and decorating graves of loved ones

HIGHER RISK
Traditional trick-or-treating or trunk-or-treat events
Dinner parties with people from other households
Indoor haunted houses or costume parties

Follow these tips to prevent a COVID-19 outbreak:

1. Wear a themed cloth face mask because a costume mask is not a substitute.
2. Participate in outdoor gatherings as safer alternatives to indoor events.
3. Keep 6 feet of distance from people of other households.

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PHOTO/CODY MELLO-KLEIN

Skeletons protect this house on South Lee Street in Old Town.

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HALLOWEEN FROM | 1

planning to organize a scavenger hunt for her kids and some of their friends who have been quarantining, as well as a scary movie night. It's not the same as the regular Lee Street festivities, but Dunn said she is hopeful that next year will be even better.

"It's the best night of the year on Lee Street, but we'll be here next year and we'll save all our candy budget from this year and hopefully we'll be ready next year with, who knows, maybe even double the candy," Dunn said.

Both AHD and the city are advocating that residents choose "lower risk" activities to celebrate the holiday this year, according to the city website. These include pumpkin carving with family or friends, house decorating, hosting a virtual Halloween costume contest, watching scary movies or organizing a scavenger hunt.

AHD does not recommend that residents go trick-or-treating or participate in "one-way trick-or-treating," an emerging trend where

homeowners leave individually wrapped bags of candy on their porches for trick-or-treaters.

In addition to Lee Street, other neighborhoods are hosting safe ways to celebrate Halloween.

The Del Ray Business Association's annual Halloween parade is cancelled this year, but the DRBA is still organizing a number of other events.

"Our primary concern is always the health and safety of our community," Del Ray Halloween parade organizer Gayle Reuter said in a state-

ment. "While we are heartbroken that we can't bring 7,500 ghosts, goblins, superheroes and princesses to the Avenue for a parade, we're excited about hosting some of our favorite Halloween traditions in a safe, socially-distant format."

The best costume awards that are given out every year at the parade will move online this year. Those who wish to submit their costumes in the best group costume and best pet costume

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PHOTO/CODY MELLO-KLEIN

A skeleton observes the city's mask mandate in Old Town.

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categories must enter online at www.visitdelray.com/halloween. The deadline is noon on Nov. 1.

Homeowners, business owners and neighbors will also be able to enter to win in the best decorated house, best decorated business and, for the first time, best decorated block categories. The deadline to enter for these awards is noon on Oct. 25.

The best decorated block category was inspired by the creatively decorated porches throughout the neighborhood that came about as a result of Del Ray's socially distant First Thursdays, according to the DRBA.

"During the pandemic, we have constantly been in

awe of how our community has figured out new ways to connect with our neighbors, safely," DRBA President Sue Kovalsky said in a statement. "We're excited to see the creativity of neighbors coming together in the group costume contests and block decorating contests."

The DRBA will also hold a Halloween scavenger hunt starting on Friday. Residents will be able to explore the neighborhood to find Halloween-themed items in Del Ray's murals and businesses. Four people will be selected randomly from all the entries to receive a \$50 gift card to spend at Del Ray businesses, according to the DRBA website.

In lieu of the DRBA's annual collection of gently used

Halloween costumes for children in need, community members will also be able to purchase a costume for a specific child via an Amazon wish list. More information is available at www.visitdelray.com/halloween.

The Carlyle Vitality Initiative is also holding its own pandemic-era Halloween celebration at the Carlyle Farmers Market on Oct. 30. The festivities will include a Halloween concert from Jesters to the Left in the evening, trick-or-treating with farmers market vendors and a pumpkin carving challenge where contestants bring their pre-carved pumpkins to be judged in competition.

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PHOTO/CODY MELLO-KLEIN

Werewolves, ghost and ghouls haunt a Del Ray home.



PHOTO/CODY MELLO-KLEIN

Gourds of all sizes and shapes greet people as they walk by this Del Ray home.



PHOTO/CODY MELLO-KLEIN

Some residents are integrating pandemic safety protocol into their Halloween decorations.

Absentee Voting for November 3 Election

As of July 1, 2020, every registered voter in Virginia is eligible to vote absentee, no reason is required.

★Voting - In Person★

The deadline for in-person absentee voting is Saturday, October 31 at 5 pm. Registered voters in the City of Alexandria may vote in-person at any of the below locations.

Office of Voter Registration & Elections 132 N. Royal St., #100

Monday – Friday	8 am – 5 pm
Weekend and Evening Hours	
October 23	8 am – 6 pm
October 24	8am-5pm
October 26, 27, 28 & 29	8 am – 8 pm
October 30	8 am – 6 pm
October 31	8am - 5pm

Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library 5005 Duke St.

(beginning Friday, October 23)

Date	Hours
October 23	Noon – 6pm
October 24	8am – 5pm
October 26, 27, 28, 29	Noon – 8 pm
October 30	Noon – 6 pm
October 31	8am – 5 pm

Minnie Howard School 3801 W Braddock Rd.

(Saturdays Only)

Date	Hours
October 24 & 31	8am – 5pm

George Washington School 1005 Mt. Vernon Ave.

(Saturdays Only)

Date	Hours
October 24 & 31	8am – 5pm

For more information, visit alexandriava.gov/elections or call 703.746.4050

TAYLOR RUN FROM | 1

ing the means by which the project will achieve its pollution reduction goals, since it involves disturbing one of the city's few forested areas.

"It's the closest thing we have to a forest in Alexandria," Russell Bailey, a resident and environmental advocate, said. "When all is said and done, realistically, about this project, whatever reduction there is of pollution in the Chesapeake Bay, is going to be a fleabite in comparison to the potential damage to the Alexandria natural environment."

The city held the first public community meeting

detailing specifics of the project in January 2020 and another on Sept. 29. Because of the pandemic, there were no public meetings in the spring or summer. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid to late 2021, according to the project's page on the city website.

The portion of Taylor Run stream to be restructured begins at the Chinquapin Park trailhead, near the Chinquapin Park Recreation Center and Aquatics Facility on King Street and ends behind the First Baptist Church property.

Over the years, the stream has been downcutting – a geological process by which

the stream channel deepens – as a result of high volumes of water. The stream is largely underground before it opens through a culvert into Chinquapin Park. There are also several storm drain outfalls that discharge into the stream.

"In a highly urbanized area with a high amount of impervious area, like any other urban area, that in and of itself puts stress on the system," Bill Skrabak, city deputy director of infrastructure and environmental quality, said.

The restoration project will involve raising the stream bed and engineering in-stream structures that would slow and control the flow of the stream. But in order to perform the restoration, the city will need to cut down 269 trees, clear out natural vegetation and bring in heavy equipment that could harm the root systems of trees along the construction path.

Of the trees slated for elimination, six are larger than 30 inches in diameter, about 54 are between 18 and 30 inches in diameter and about 207 are 6 to 17 inches in diameter.

The city plans to replant about 2,280 trees and 7,200 shrubs at the project's conclusion. However, the project's critics argue the replanted trees will not make

up for the trees lost.

"They're planting way too many trees, way too small," Bailey said. "It's going to be survival of the fittest. Most of those trees will die. They're so small that if you get any big rain event, they'll wash out. It's not a replanting project that's designed for success."

In addition, there is an acidic seepage swamp – a globally rare wetland and the only of its kind in the city – near the project's boundaries. In his review of the project, Rod Simmons, a natural resource manager and plant ecologist with the city Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, identified 24 plant species within the seepage swamp that are highly rare in the City of Alexandria.

While early plans had the construction path of the project cutting into the wetland, Skrabak said the project will no longer impact it.

"There's been a lot of talk about the acidic wetland that's adjacent to the work, and so I think there's a little bit of misinformation that somehow that's going to be destroyed as part of this project," Skrabak said. "We're doing everything we can do to avoid impacts to that. There's some misinformation there that our project goes right through it, and that's not the case."

Simmons also identified 13 plants that are highly rare in the city that fall directly in the footprint of the proposed stream restoration.

When asked about protecting the rare plants, Jesse Maines, stormwater management division chief, said the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services has been working with RPCA.

"We have been working with Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities and the Natural Resources Division, so they've been a project team partner throughout to where we are to point, and they'll continue to be," Maines said. "They're providing that kind of review for us because they have the ecologists and plant biologists and folks."

However, a June 22, 2020 email exchange between Simmons and Natural Resources Division Chief Bob Williams refutes this assertion. The emails were provided in response to a Freedom of Information Act request that was shared with the Times.

Simmons wrote to Williams: "I also have great concern that Jesse Maines (and perhaps others) is using Natural Resources Division – but specifically you and I – as a sort of greenwashing for Stormwater Management's stream construction projects by saying numerous times at public meetings and in written communications that he is working closely with Rod Simmons and Bob Williams on these projects – even to the extent of implying that we have given the projects our blessing. I, for one, have not worked with Jesse on anything for well over a year – haven't even spoken to him. Such statements are dishonest, misleading, and self-serving."

Beyond opposing the tree loss, the project's critics have

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PHOTO/MISSY SCHROTT

A large maple that is at risk of being cut down as part of the Taylor Run stream restoration. After receiving feedback from the community, city staff say they are adjusting plans to protect the tree.



PHOTO/ECA

A sign at the entrance to Chiquapin Park advocates for protecting the forest.

TAYLOR RUN FROM | 8

questioned the effectiveness of the project and the success rate of stream restorations in general.

“They have to meet these reduction obligations, and they’re looking for ways to do it, and the way that it’s being done very commonly around the Chesapeake Bay area is with these stream reconstruction projects,” Bailey said. “It’s a very clear way to get credit. ... It’s an easy way to do it.”

Skrabak acknowledged that the stream restoration was, at least in part, motivated by the pollution reduction obligations, as well as a state grant that will provide half of the project’s funding. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has awarded the city a \$2,255,000 grant to put toward the \$4.5 million project.

“On the spectrum of cost effectiveness, stream restoration is a more cost-effective solution than some other strategies,” Skrabak said. “[Taylor Run] was identified way back when we did our initial stream assessments. This was a corridor that clearly needed help, and now we’re getting the grant.”

Bailey, along with former

Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald, who is board chair of the Environmental Council of Alexandria, said a different solution would make more sense for Taylor Run than a stream restoration.

“The problem is not the pollution that’s being generated from the park and the stream,” Bailey said. “There’s very, very little of that. It’s coming off the streets, it’s coming off the parking lots, it’s coming from up in the watershed, which is now all underground. The question is, can you put bio swales up there, can you put underground holding tanks for the water and let the water out gradually?”

Now in the midst of the community engagement phase of the project, Bailey and Macdonald said they hope to continue having discussions about their project concerns with the city.

“The ideal outcome is that [the] city engages with us ... and that we look at the problem and we come up with the best solution, the one that protects the bay and protects the existing park and its resources,” Macdonald said. “The problems that we’re seeing now, such as they are, are a result of all this water running off all the



PHOTO/MISSY SCHROTT

Fallen trees in the Taylor Run stream. According to the city, erosion along the banks of the streams, which results in trees falling, is one reason for the stream restoration.

streets above T.C. Williams. You can’t solve it simply by doing something in the park itself.”

Bailey and Macdonald have also organized tours of the project area to educate the community. Last weekend, all eight 10-person tours offered were fully booked.

Maines said T&ES is currently determining how to best engage with the concerned residents and will likely have another public hearing in the fall.

The city is collecting feedback and questions in a 21-day comment period that closes on Oct. 23. Once staff has reviewed the comments, they plan to post answers to the questions raised on the city website, Maines said.

The project is not required to go to the Planning Commission or City Council for approval, Maines said. Council was already involved in the project through the grant application and Chesapeake Bay action plan.

For more information, go to <https://bit.ly/3jhwAKv>. To submit feedback before the public comment period closes on Oct. 23, go to www.research.net/r/AlexandriaVA-TaylorRunStream.

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Obituary

Grace Eva Hughes Shamblin, 94, of Alexandria, passed away on Sept. 22, 2020.

Grace is survived by her loving husband of 76 years, Harry Donald “Don” Shamblin; son, Ronald Keith (Andrea) Shamblin; daughter, Eva Jane (Kerry) Donley, all of Alexandria; daughter-in-law, Winifred Young Shamblin of Orange Park, Florida and nine granddaughters: Dana (Joe) Andy of Arlington; Leslie (Chris) Alford of Gray, Georgia; Kristin Donley of Alexandria; Lisa Mathew of Warsaw, Ohio; Kaitlin Donley (James Wilson) of Alexandria; Holly (Neil) Sliva of Pennel, Pennsylvania; Colleen Donley of Alexandria; Cara Donley of Washington D.C.; and Kelsey Donley of Arlington. She is also survived by 12 great-grandchildren. In addition, Grace is mourned by numerous nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors.

She is predeceased by her parents, William Allen Hughes and Lulu Smiley Hughes; stepmother, Mary Glassburn Hughes; son, Donald Allen Shamblin; daughter-in-law, Joyce Ann Shamblin; and sister, Alber-



ta Belle Hellyer.

Grace was born on July 18, 1926 in Gallia County, Ohio in her grandmother’s farmhouse. She married Don on Aug. 20, 1944 in Cheshire, Ohio and they raised their family there until moving to Alexandria in 1961. She lived in the Virginia Hills neighborhood of Fairfax County in Alexandria from 1961 to 2017, at which time she and Don moved to Sunrise Assisted Living in Alexandria.

A memorial service at Virginia Hills Baptist Church will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Grace’s name to VHBC, 6507 Telegraph Road, Alexandria, VA 22310.

Council approves first Virginia Tech Innovation Campus building

North Potomac Yard Environmental Sustainability Master Plan established

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

City Council unanimously approved designs for Virginia Tech's first Innovation Campus academic building alongside amendments to the broader North Potomac Yard Master Plan during Saturday's public hearing.

Council's approval represents a significant step forward for Potomac Yard's Innovation District and a comprehensive plan that aims to make the neighborhood an example of environmental sustainability.

The Virginia Tech building was the big-ticket item at the hearing, but it was only one part of a broader series of votes being taken on the North Potomac Yard Master Plan. Council also approved coordinated development district concept plan amendments; a subdivision request; a street naming case; a transportation management plan special use permit and seven building development special use permits, including the Virginia Tech academic building.

In addition to the Virginia Tech building, the DSUPs included two residential buildings, one with 262 units and one with 212 units, and four office buildings, ranging from six to eight stories.

The building designs both recall the neighborhood's industrial past while integrating the sleek, glassy designs one would expect of a district with "innovation" in its name.

The academic building approved was one of three buildings that will make up

the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus. It features a gem-like design that uses glass and vertical fins to capture sunlight to optimize solar energy performance and provide passive cooling inside. The building will also include space for programming in the ground lobby and a two-story student work space, including an outdoor balcony area.

Like the rest of the campus, in its final form, parking will be entirely underground, although the initial site plan includes interim surface parking lots that will be phased out as the campus project proceeds, City Planner Sara Brandt-Vorel said.

The design of the building drew universal praise from council, including Councilor and brick advocate Del Pepper.

"I think the buildings are interesting, and that's what we wanted here," Pepper said. "We didn't just want a whole bunch of square boxes."

With the seven DSUPs come a number of community benefits. In addition to funding new public art projects and Bike Share access, Virginia Tech and other developers have committed to contributing \$14.5 million in affordable housing, \$5 million toward a new theater and \$15 million toward a new school, Brandt-Vorel said.

Councilor Amy Jackson, seconded by Pepper, moved to approve the amendments to the master plan as well as the DSUPs and other proposals. Council unanimously approved them.

City Council also considered the North Potomac Yard Environmental Sustainability Master Plan on Saturday.

The plan aims to establish a comprehensive, forward-thinking set of guide-

lines that will guide the city's environmental policy in the new Innovation District.

The plan before council was the result of conversations between city staff, the Environmental Policy Commission and the Planning Commission. It sets goals to achieve district-wide carbon neutrality by 2040 and carbon neutral buildings by 2030, explore alternative energy sources and district-wide solutions that reduce carbon emissions.

"I think the comment that was probably heard the most loudly was developing a zero-carbon analysis for the entire district and representative buildings to help inform the strategies that would be employed in the first phase and subsequent phases for redevelopment of North Potomac Yard," City Planner Richard Lawrence said.

Out of those conversations, city staff developed a series of specific conditions that would need to be met in each DSUP proposed in the district, including: clear reporting requirements for how targets and metrics are measured through implementation, universal utilization of electrification as a primary power source and additional guarantees to ensure buildings are meeting carbon neutrality goals and sustainability targets.

The Planning Commission approved the master plan 5-2 with two amendments. The commission recommended that the plan be updated to document the progress of completed and planned projects toward achieving carbon neutrality and that a zero-carbon analysis of the entire district be performed

and presented to council, the EPC and Planning Commission within six months of approval.

Kathie Hoekstra, chair of the EPC, supported the Planning Commission's recommendation and said she believes the plan, particularly the district-wide analysis, "should set a bar to be exceeded by each future city developer."

"This analysis would identify the short-, medium- and long-term opportunities for benefits that reduce carbon emissions and improve resilience and reliability, a mandate for our current climate emergency," Hoekstra said.

Staff expressed concern since the amendment involves a recommended annual review of the document that could impact developers who had already-approved DSUPs.

"Staff's recommendation will be a much larger lead time so that everyone can have these conversations, so that when these buildings come to you, there is clear direction in terms of the environmental elements," P&Z Deputy Director Jeff Farner said.

Director of P&Z Karl Moritz said that reports on the master plan would ideally occur right before another major development is approved in order to allow council, the EPC and Planning Commission enough time to evaluate whether progress on the plan's goals has been made.

Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker proposed approving the plan, seconded by Councilor Mo Seifeldin, subject to amendments designed to address some of staff's concerns. In Bennett-Parker's



IMAGE/CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

The Virginia Tech academic building approved on Saturday features a gem-like design made of glass.

proposed changes, applicants would be required to update the master plan to document progress toward achieving carbon neutrality goals at least 120 days before a DSUP public hearing. Bennett-Parker also proposed that the district-wide zero carbon analysis be submitted to the city within a year of council's approval.

Council approved the plan unanimously.

"This document is really extraordinary," Pepper said. "As we've said, we're breaking new ground here and I really am hopeful that it will be taken up by other communities as a template."

Council's universal support for the future of Potomac Yard and the Innovation District could herald the next phase of development in an area of the city that has a history of driving progress, Mayor Justin Wilson said.

"This was a railyard. This was one of the most significant industrial sites in the city with all that goes along with that, and it was an economic engine for the city," Wilson said. "Now, we are essentially taking the next step in making this the economic engine for the city for the next generation."

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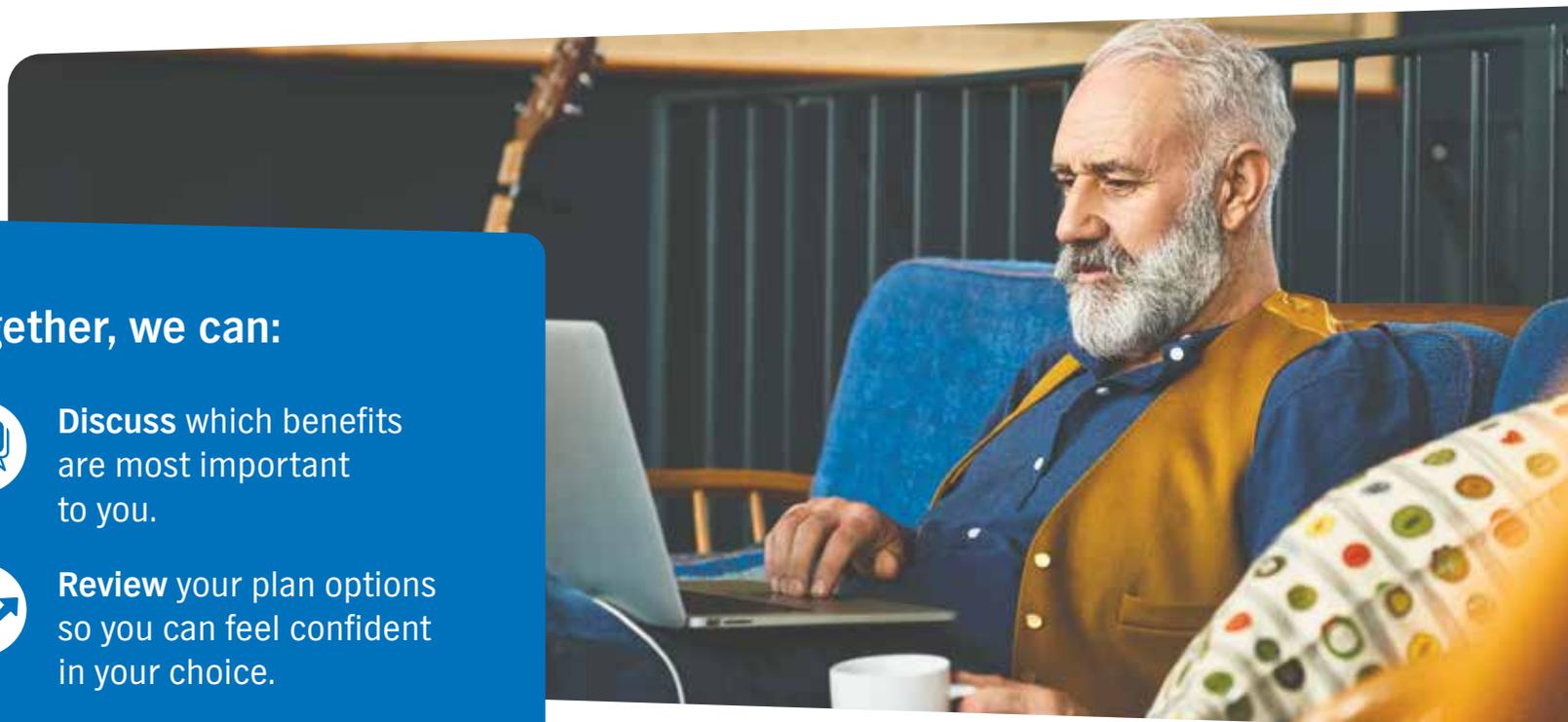


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Legal trailblazer Bernie Cohen dies at 86

Won landmark Supreme Court case advancing interracial marriage

BY DENISE DUNBAR

While many people worked to further marriage equality, it's difficult to imagine that anyone played a larger role in bringing it to fruition than long-time Alexandria lawyer and state delegate Bernie Cohen, who died on Oct. 12 at age 86 from Parkinson's Disease.

Cohen, along with co-counsel Philip Hirschkop, argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in April 1967 that bans on interracial marriage were unconstitutional in the famous case "Loving v. Virginia." Two months later, the Supreme Court unanimously ruled in favor of Mildred and Richard Loving, striking down laws in 15 states that banned interracial marriage.

"Under our Constitution, the freedom to marry, or not marry, a person of another race resides with the individual, and cannot be infringed by the state," Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote, according to History.com.



Bernie Cohen, high school graduation, 1952.

COURTESY PHOTO

The Loving case was later cited by Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy in his opinion striking down state bans on gay marriage in the 2015 case "Obergefell v. Hodges."

Cohen helped found the Virginia chapter of the Amer-

ican Civil Liberties Union in the early 1960s soon after graduating from Georgetown Law School, according to Wikipedia. In 1964, then Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy forwarded a letter to the Virginia ACLU from Mildred Loving – a woman of



Bernie Cohen with wife Rae, approximately 1970.

COURTESY PHOTO

Native American and African descent who was married to a white man – that wound up with Cohen.

Though Cohen was only 29 at the time, he later said he knew right away that the case could go all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"When I told Richard [Loving] that, his jaw dropped," Cohen said to the Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star in January 2019 at a gathering celebrating his 85th birthday.

Cohen and Hirschkop argued that the ban on interracial marriage violated both the due process and equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment, according to the Free Lance-Star. The day that decision was announced, June 12, 1967, is now celebrated each year on its anniversary as "Loving Day."

Cohen's former law partner Tom Curcio told of the

day when an interracial couple came up to Cohen at a screening of a documentary on the Loving case and asked to have their picture taken with Cohen.

"I was speaking with Bernie when a young African-American man and his white wife came up and introduced themselves to Bernie, with the husband thanking Bernie for all he did, as but for 'Loving' he would not have been able to marry the woman he loved," Curcio wrote in a Virginia Bar tribute to Cohen. "He then asked if they could have a picture taken with him. Bernie, being always gracious, said, 'Of course' and I took the picture."

"As this is going on, I'm getting all choked up and said to Bernie that I couldn't believe what just happened after the couple left. With

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the usual gleam in his eyes, Bernie smiled and said, ‘Tom, you would not believe how often that happens,’ Curcio said.

Much of Cohen’s political and legal work focused on advancing the rights of individuals, either against the state or relative to large corporations. As a first term delegate to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1980, Cohen sponsored a bill that did not pass that would have decriminalized homosexuality in Virginia.

‘Bernie made his mark as a trailblazer,’ former Alexandria Mayor Kerry Donley, who ran several of Cohen’s early political campaigns, said. ‘Not just in his practice of law. He took those same values to the legislature in Virginia ... He sponsored a number of pieces of legislation, civil rights, social justice, equality. He took on some big institutional types.’

Donley recalled the time Cohen went onto the floor of the House of Delegates and cut up his credit card to make a point.

‘He didn’t like the way credit card companies disclosed their finance charges. I got a call from the Virginia Bankers’ Association. I called up Bernie. He came and the VBA guy came and [Bernie] went toe to toe with him,’ Donley said. ‘Bernie was right. He sponsored legislation that changed disclosure. He would get into the details like no legislator I’ve ever seen.’

Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran, who succeeded Cohen in the House of Delegates, said Cohen had a way of distilling and explaining complex and controversial issues. In the 1990s, a sodomy bill came before the legislature and became an issue in one of Moran’s campaigns.

‘[Cohen] says, ‘Hey, what two consenting adults do in the privacy of their own bedroom is of no interest to me. It’s none of my business,’ Moran said. ‘[Cohen said] ‘You can’t just shake your head and disagree with your opponents. You need to articulate a view that no one can disagree with.’

Former Alexandria City Councilor David Speck, who was elected to the House of Delegates the same year as Cohen, remembers working together on Alexandria issues.

‘If there was one word that I will always associate with Bernie it was passion,’ Speck said. ‘No one ever had any trouble knowing what issues he pursued and no one ever doubted for a minute he would not quit until he achieved a desired outcome. In politics that is the true meaning of the long game, and Bernie played that as well as anyone could ever hope. ‘Loving’ was just one of the many legacies he has left for Virginia.’

Former law partner Sandra Rohrstaff said Cohen’s laser devotion to justice meant he wasn’t always the easiest person for opponents to deal with.

‘He was not just a personal injury lawyer. He went up against giant corporations that did things that injured people. ... He had this sense of justice that was deeply embedded in him. He couldn’t help but want justice for peo-

ple who couldn’t get it for themselves,’ Rohrstaff said.

Numerous people also mentioned Cohen’s kindness and humility.

Rohrstaff said she joined Cohen’s firm as a secretary, and he encouraged her desire to attend law school at night while working for the firm by day. She eventually became a partner in his firm.

Rohrstaff said that when lawyers pass the bar in Virginia, they are sworn in by the state Supreme Court. When she was sworn in, Cohen made sure it was a special day.

‘He had a gold Jaguar at the time. He drove me and my family down to Richmond

and he honored me with his comments to the Supreme Court of Virginia. He took a whole day out of earning a living ... to drive me and my family. ... That’s the kind of guy he was,’ Rohrstaff said.

Donley said Cohen never mentioned his involvement in the Loving case during the campaigns they worked on together.

‘Bernie was humble about his successes as a litigator and as a legislator,’ Donley said.

Moran said one of the things that stood out to him about Cohen was his

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COURTESY PHOTO

Bernie Cohen with son Bennett on an Aug. 22, 2015 flight to the Long Island National Cemetery to visit the gravesite of Bernie Cohen’s older brother, a U.S. Army infantryman who was killed in the waning days of WWII. It was the last time Cohen and his son flew together.



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ACPS administrators advocate to keep school resource officers

School staff address concerns about disproportionate impact on students of color

BY LINDSEY SULLIVAN

As part of its bi-annual review of the memorandum of understanding between Alexandria schools and the Alexandria Police Department, the Alexandria School Board held a closed community work session on Oct. 15, where community members voiced both criticisms of and support for school resource officers.

The work session included input from two SROs at T.C. Williams High School — Gary Argueta and Johnny Larios — as well as Police Chief Michael Brown, Alexandria school administrators, the school board and several other community members.

John Contreras, director of safety and security services for Alexandria City Public Schools, cited some of the data collected as part of the school board's current



PHOTO/MISSY SCHROTT

An Alexandria police cruiser.

review that began Sept. 17. He said that favorability for SROs increased from 56% in 2018 to 68% in 2020, according to the ACPS high school community survey.

Conversely, however, he cited another community survey conducted for the

school board's review. The survey found that 56 of the 81 respondents said revisions should be made to the MOU, and of those 56, 40 mentioned removing SROs from Alexandria schools.

A concern frequently raised by administrators and community members during the meeting was the need for greater data collection on SROs and their work to assess whether the MOU is effectively meeting its goals.

Several community members raised concerns for students of color, who are disproportionately affected by disciplinary action taken in schools nationwide, according to several studies. Additionally, the demographic breakdown of the recent ACPS survey revealed that many of those dissatisfied with police presence in schools are people of color.

Superintendent Dr. Gregory Hutchings, Ed.D., as well

as several other school administrators, provided some clarity on the issue raised about the disparity students of color face when it comes to disciplinary action. They all affirmed that SROs only get involved in criminal activity at schools and that all other disciplinary action is handled independently by administration.

Hutchings added that while this means the issue of racial disparities in schools needs to be addressed, it is an issue separate from the review of the MOU or SROs themselves.

Hutchings said data collection is integral for ACPS to monitor such goals and their outcomes, rather than having to respond to what the community is saying or what the nation is doing.

“What we're trying to do, I believe, is trying to really change that narrative so that police officers can be-

come those who protect and serve, not those who come in and police and come in and [create] inequities within our buildings,” Hutchings said.

Contreras said that the revised MOU improves the process used to measure the performance of SROs directly by including a new form called an “administrator/law enforcement report form.”

The form will be required any time there is a police action taken at a school, and once filed, safety and security services will be prompted to review and conduct research on the event — thus allowing ACPS to better analyze police actions that are taken at schools.

The form will also be used as part of the school board's quarterly reviews, that are now mandatory, in addition to its annual reviews. Quarterly reviews will now take place in August, November,

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February and May.

Chief Brown asserted his agreement with conducting a regular review of the MOU and making revisions as needed.

Argueta and Larios, who have both been working as SROs for three years, talked about how they have developed relationships with students at T.C. Williams.

“My goal is to protect people,” Larios said. “Rather than getting people in trouble, I spend my time walking the halls speaking to kids who I’ve developed strong bonds with. They tell me about their family problems, their school problems, their love problems, people they’ve lost or [when] they just need guidance in life.”

Both officers said they have seen the positive impact that building relationships between students and officers can have.

The officers and administrators who spoke at the work session stated in agreement that SROs are better equipped to respond to criminal instances at schools than an outside officer would be. This is due not only to the positive relationships they develop, but also the proximity and familiarity they have with the school, they said.

“Nobody on the street is faster than me and other [resource] officers at getting to the school,” Larios said. “And I don’t think I need to explain why seconds matter in those situations.”

The administrators who spoke, including Peter Balas, principal of T.C. Williams, Jesse Mazur, principal of George Washington Middle School, and Pierrette Peters, principal of Francis Hammond Middle School, all spoke in favor of keeping SROs and said that they are an important part of maintaining the safety of Alexan-

dria’s schools.

“In my humble opinion, the roles of the SROs in our schools exemplifies community policing at its finest — the establishment, the development of positive relationships among G.W. students and staff,” Mazur said. “It speaks to the power of relational connectedness and getting to know one another, strong communication, and trust — which defines the social good that SROs seek out in service of their badge and uniform while in schools.”

Balas addressed a concern raised by those in support of ending the MOU, such as those at Tenants and Workers United, who claim there is a correlation between SROs and suspension rates.

“To claim that suspension rate is directly related to, and negatively impacted by the SROs is simply false,” Balas said.

The other administrators echoed this statement,

adding that suspension is a disciplinary action handled independently by school administration.

Peters added that SROs are an important part of Alexandria schools’ efforts in community policing, and have been particularly helpful in their efforts to move from a punitive approach to restorative practices.

“It’s greater than just discipline [and] creating a safe school environment, it’s definitely about community policing, it’s about building strong relationships with our students and families and school community,” Peters said.

In addition to the report form added to the MOU, the proposed MOU revision addresses several other community concerns.

Contreras said section four of the MOU entitled “Roles and Responsibility” now explicitly states that SRO training must be com-

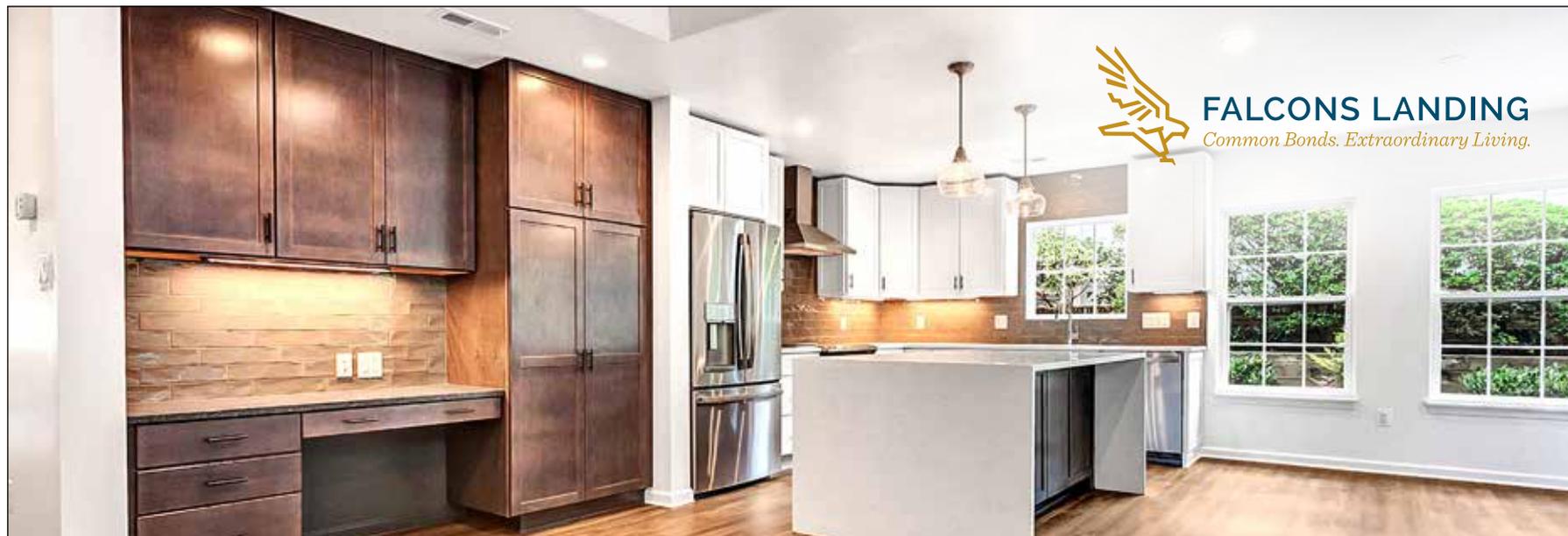
pleted prior to school assignment. It also contains revised language to better align with the school board policy “Standards of Student Conduct.”

Section five of the MOU entitled “Operation Procedures” is now revised to detail explicit requirements for SROs in the event of a student investigation. The section now states “Prior to any questioning of a student, the SRO or Police officer must verify that the student has had contact with their parent, guardian, or legal custodian.”

The previous MOU only mentioned the officer contacting parents, but made no indication of what the requirement was.

The school board will continue to review the MOU at their meeting Thursday, Oct. 29 and is slated to make its final decision on Nov. 2.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Preparing for flu season in the era of COVID-19

BY DR. VIVEK SINHA

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed every aspect of our lives.

Now that it's October, and the colder weather is rapidly approaching, it is even more important to stay diligent and stay healthy. This includes being aware of another viral illness that is common this time of the year: seasonal influenza, also known as the flu. There are similarities between COVID-19 and the flu. However, there are also important differences.

Influenza is a viral illness that can occur throughout the year but is more common during flu season. Flu season starts in late autumn and can last until early spring of the following year. Every



FILE PHOTO

The flu vaccine is an inactivated vaccine that cannot cause the flu. It stimulates the immune system into recognizing the influenza virus and building antibodies that would help fight the invading virus.

year at the start of flu season, I have conversations with my patients about methods that they can use to decrease their chances of catching influenza. This conversation invariably leads to conversations about how

influenza is transmitted and how to recognize signs and symptoms of influenza.

The primary way the influenza is spread is through respiratory droplets from an infected person coughing and sneezing, although there is also evidence that smaller aerosolized droplets can be spread by talking. Surfaces that have come into contact with the droplets can also be a cause of spread if not cleaned properly. At this time, experts say that COVID-19 has a similar spread pattern. Masks are one way to reduce transmission when distancing is not possible.

There is a lag period between when a person is exposed to influenza and when they start to show symptoms, usually one to four days. This is called the incubation period, and it is during this time frame that the person has been exposed but is not yet symptomatic. It is also during this time that the person can start to

spread influenza.

The spreading period, also known as viral shedding, can start as soon as 24 hours after exposure, and it increases in severity as the person starts to show symptoms. For most people, the viral shedding period for influenza stops somewhere between six to 10 days of illness, but in children, the shedding period can be longer.

The incubation period for COVID-19 can be much longer, anywhere from one to 14 days, although most people who develop COVID-19 start to show symptoms two to five days after exposure. The viral shedding period for COVID-19 is less clear. We do know that infected people can start spreading the illness a few days before they start showing symptoms, but how long they can spread the illness is still being determined.

As I tell my patients, the important message is that there is a period of time where a person can have influenza or COVID-19 and not yet know it but still be contagious. Therefore, prevention is the best policy.

The symptoms of influenza can be mild in the beginning and then progress to more severe symptoms. The symptoms of COVID-19 can have a similar pattern. Typically, symptoms of the flu and COVID-19 can include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, sore throat, muscle aches and headache. COVID-19 may sometimes present with changes in smell or change



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HEALTH & WELLNESS

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in taste of food. People with underlying medical conditions, older individuals and pregnant women are considered to be higher risk for both of these conditions.

Depending on the course of illness, complications can be severe. Both influenza and COVID-19 can lead to conditions such as pneumonia, respiratory failure, inflammation of the brain and heart and secondary bacterial complications. In addition, COVID-19 has been shown to be associated with blood clots in the blood vessels of the brain, heart and lungs.

Oftentimes, the only way to differentiate the illnesses is to be tested for both. There are tests available for both COVID-19 and Influenza A and B, the most common strains of influenza, that can help guide treatment. Influenza nasal swabs have been around for many years and are used quite regularly in doctor's offices, urgent care facilities and emergency departments. The rapid flu swabs can come back with results in minutes, and the send-out swabs, which are often used for confirmation, can take up to a few days to come back with a result. COVID-19 swabs have evolved rapidly over the past few months and depending on the type of

test, they can have varying degrees of accuracy and result time.

The biggest question I am asked by patients, is, "How do we treat for these conditions?" In my opinion, the best defense is a good offense. In other words, while there are medical treatments with various degrees of efficacy for both conditions, prevention is the best treatment.

It starts out with the basics: washing hands with soap for at least 20 seconds multiple times a day as often as needed, staying home if you are not feeling well, keeping up with your regular medications and vaccinations, covering your mouth with your elbow when you cough or sneeze and, especially in the case of COVID-19, wearing masks or facial coverings when not able to distance from others. It is critical to know that even if someone does not have any symptoms, they can still spread the virus.

This is also the time of year when we are educating the public about the flu vaccination. The flu vaccine is an inactivated vaccine that cannot cause the flu. It stimulates the immune system into recognizing the influenza virus and building antibodies that would help fight the invading virus. It's important to note that while the flu vaccine may not

completely prevent someone from contracting the flu, it will decrease their chances of getting the flu and make their symptoms less severe if they do catch the flu.

Unfortunately, at this time, we do not have a COVID-19 vaccine. However, there are

considerable resources being spent on making one available for the general public.

Talk to your doctor about keeping on top of your chronic conditions so you can stay healthy.

The bottom line is: Stay socially distanced as

appropriate, wash your hands, get the flu shot and don't forget to wear a mask.

The writer is the chief medical officer of Belleview Medical Partners, an office and house call practice based in Old Town.

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Typically, symptoms of the flu and COVID-19 can include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, sore throat, muscle aches and headache.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Bad dental hygiene can lead to other health problems

BY DR. SHERI SALARTASH

Most people get that poor dental care can lead to cavities, plaque, gingivitis and halitosis. What many are discovering is the link to more serious health problems resulting from poor oral care. The science is in: If you don't take care of your teeth, you face far more serious consequences than a simple toothache or some unsightly stains.

Multiple peer reviewed studies and respected organizations such as the Mayo Clinic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Dental Association highlight some areas of concern:

Cardiovascular disease

In a nutshell, this means heart disease. The bacteria from inflammation of the gums and periodontal disease can enter your bloodstream and travel to the arteries in the heart and cause

atherosclerosis, hardening of the arteries. Atherosclerosis causes plaque to develop on the inner walls of arteries. This decreases blood flow through the body, which can cause an increased risk of heart attack or stroke. The inner lining of the heart can also become infected and inflamed, a condition known as endocarditis.

Dementia

The bacteria from gingivitis may enter the brain through nerve channels in the head or through the bloodstream, which could lead to the development of Alzheimer's disease.

Respiratory infections

The "Journal of Periodontology" warns that gum disease could cause infections in the lungs, including pneumonia. While the connection might not be completely obvious at first, this is a result of inhaling bacteria from infected teeth

and gums over a long period of time.

Diabetic complications

Inflammation of the gum tissue and periodontal disease can make it harder to control your blood sugar and make your diabetes symptoms worse. Diabetes sufferers are also more susceptible to periodontal disease, making proper dental care even more important for those with this disease.

Brushing and flossing keep more than your pearly whites healthy – they also could help prevent serious illnesses. Poor dental care is also a possible factor in other conditions, such as immune system disorders, weak bones, problems with pregnancy and low birth weight.

As the inflammation from pathogens or periodontal disease damages the tiny blood vessels in your gums, oral bacteria are allowed

to enter your bloodstream. Although the body has many systems in place to manage these bugs, some harmful species have been associated with a number of diseases and conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease, adverse pregnancy outcomes, Alzheimer's disease and even depression.

Other health problems happening in the body can influence oral health as well. People with diabetes, for example, are more likely to have periodontal disease than people without it, likely because they're more susceptible to contracting infections overall, according to the American Academy of Periodontology.

Practicing proper dental care and taking care of issues in the mouth is critical to maintaining overall health. The mouth is not a detached system of the body. Oral bacteria is frequently found in parts of the body that have other problems. As

oral bacteria enters the bloodstream, it can travel to organs throughout the body, including the brain, heart, lungs and more.

Encourage your family to practice good oral hygiene by brushing after every meal with a fluoride toothpaste, flossing daily and using a mouth rinse to kill bacteria. You should also visit a dental professional regularly for cleanings and the prevention and treatment of cavities. Remember, people who keep their teeth live longer.



DR. SHERI SALARTASH

The writer is a dentist at Dental Excellence Integrative Center in Alexandria.



Bad dental hygiene can lead to cardiovascular disease, dementia and respiratory infections.

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Times Living

Alexandria Celebrates Women

Women: A strong political force

Historically, Alexandria women vote in high numbers

BY GAYLE CONVERSE AND PAT MILLER

As we celebrate this centennial year of the American woman's right to vote, we find ourselves a few short weeks away from a United States presidential election – an election in which women voters are predicted to play a key role.

The 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution enfranchised 26 million American women in time for the 1920 U.S. presidential election, yet it took 60 years for the female electorate to match the percentage of male voters.

Although ratios fluctuated from state to state, one-third of women aged 21 years and older cast their ballots in 1920, in contrast to two-thirds of voting-age men. Despite the women's initial lackluster national voter turnout, the first decades following the passage of the 19th Amendment established

additional empowerment, although limited, of American women with the enactment of a few labor and education reforms.

In Alexandria, voter turnout on Nov. 2, 1920 was a different story: The number of the city's newly enfranchised women casting their ballots was higher than the national average. An account in the Nov. 3, 1920 Alexandria Gazette revealed local statistics: "The women voted in large numbers and fully three-fourths of the number qualified took part in the election. There are 4,250 qualified voters in the city of which number 1,399 are women."

One hundred years later, The City of Alexandria Office of Voter Registration and Elections reports that as of Oct. 15, 2020, more than 30% of the city's 100,000 active registered voters have cast their ballots in the 2020 General Election, in person or by mail. The Virginia Department of Elections reports that as of Aug. 31, 2020, there



A stamp celebrating the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote.

were 5,825,332 registered voters across the commonwealth. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a little more than half of the commonwealth's current residents are women.

Historically, all American voters have not enjoyed free and fair elections. In 1870, the 15th Amendment was passed to guarantee people of color the right to vote, however the amendment proved

stronger in theory than in practice: Poll taxes, literacy tests, harassment and physical violence prevented many Black Americans from accessing the ballot box. The 15th Amendment also did not include women. Many communities of color were blocked from voting. Indigenous people won full U.S. citizenship in 1924, but Native

SEE WOMEN

VOTING IN THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

To check your registration status and find your polling place for the Nov. 3 General Election, go to vote.elections.virginia.gov or www.alexandriava.gov/Elections, email voters@alexandriava.gov or call the Alexandria Voter Registration Office at 703-746-4050.

As of July 1, 2020, "no-excuse" absentee ballots are available. If you would like to receive an absentee ballot by mail, you may apply online at vote.elections.virginia.gov or download a paper application from the absentee voting page.

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot by mail is 5 p.m. on Oct. 23. The deadline for in-person absentee early voting for the Nov. 3 General Election is 5 p.m. on Oct. 31.

Ballots may also be returned anytime to the secure drop-box outside the Office of Voter Registration and Elections at 132 N. Royal St. For a complete list of office hours and satellite voting locations and hours for in-person voting, go to: www.alexandriava.gov/elections/info/default.aspx?id=1720.

Military and Overseas Voters may learn more about their voter registration and absentee voting options at www.elections.virginia.gov/registration/military-overseas/index.html

HOUSES

REAL TALK

The intricacies of lengthy real estate contracts
Pg 22

CALENDAR

OCTOBER EVENTS

Attend a ghost tour, go on a Halloween scavenger hunt and more.
Pg 24

REAL
TALK

The intricacies of lengthy real estate contracts

BY ANN DUFF



ANN DUFF

Every day is a new day in the world of real estate, so I decided to look back a bit.

Staying on top of new regulations and contract language is critical, of course. Each year, serious realtors take continuing education courses and every couple of years, we renew our licenses with testing on our grasp of new laws, enhanced ethics, plus equal housing and representation guidelines.

Can you imagine when real estate contracts were

just two pages long? The written word, explanations and options have exploded.

Just 30 years ago, sales contracts for your most valuable asset — your home — were just two legal-size pages long with an occasional handwritten addendum to cover a home inspection or appraisal. Somehow, we transferred properties based upon a dozen paragraphs of tried-and-true terms, and the world didn't fall apart.

But you know how the world works now. Someone in California decided they wanted their own advocate and buyer brokerage came into being in 1989; someone in the northeast wanted the sellers to admit, if they knew, to having lead-based paint in the home, so federal and state disclosures became the law; someone in Maryland decided that airport noise was an issue and a map of nearby airfields is now included in every Maryland



COURTESY PHOTO

contract; and recently, someone wanted a new take on home inspection responses, so now, rather than negoti-

ate over a bit of wood rot or a fogged window, the buyers can take things as they are or simply void.

This adds and adds to the bulk of the contract verbiage, with Maryland now clocking in at approximately 65 pages when all is said and done. Imagine being licensed in the three distinct jurisdictions of Virginia, D.C. and Maryland, as I am, to match my buyers' and sellers' needs, and as many realtors are.

Because of this, I advocate for sit-down sessions with my clients to track the flow of requirements and protections afforded in this paperwork. Use a calendar to mark out the boundaries of the contingency deadlines in each contract. Make sure to meet those deadlines or your

protections evaporate, and the remedies are different in each jurisdiction.

Use the quieter times of the market, maybe winter this year, to schedule times to sit down with your agent and talk through the wide world of multi-page contracts, and all of the variable strategies within. This will make you more confident in your course of action and prepared to be successful in your 2021 sale or purchase.

The writer is a realtor with McEneaney Associates, Inc. An Arlington native and Alexandria resident, Duff began her career in corporate public affairs before changing years ago to selling and leasing properties in Virginia, D.C. and Maryland.

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WOMEN FROM | 21

Americans were not guaranteed the right to vote until 1962.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 had been designed to eliminate legal obstacles that prevented people of color from exercising their voting rights, but racism at the polls continued in many states. Today, notwithstanding continued voter intimidation and suppression in some U.S. locations, women of color are voting in record numbers.

The 1971 ratification of the 26th Amendment that lowered the legal voting age in the U.S. from 21 to 18, created a new segment of the American electorate. In

2018, younger women voted at higher rates than younger men.

In 1980, the numbers of American women voters began to match their male counterparts and since then, have exceeded the percentage of men voters in many states. In the 2018 midterms, 53% of voters were women and 47% were men.

The 19th Amendment is being recognized as a long-awaited correction that began to change the political and socioeconomic landscapes for women: According to a recent Pew Research Center survey, “A century after the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote, about half of U.S. adults

(49%) – including 52% of men and 46% of women – say granting women the right to vote has been the most important milestone in advancing the position of women in the country, relative to other notable events and achievements.”

So, in this centennial year of the women’s vote when you cast your ballot, Alexandria Celebrates Women encourages you to do so in honor of the brave women who fought and the many who must continue to fight for this most cherished of privileges.

The writers are founders of Alexandria Celebrates Women, a nonprofit that is commemorating the centennial of



PHOTO/USPS.COM

A stamp celebrating the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote.

women’s suffrage and highlighting influential women throughout the city’s history. Contact them at AlexandriaCelebratesWomen@gmail.com.

HOME OF THE WEEK

Federal-style Old Town residence



The garden features mature plantings and brick walkways.



The dining room has original features.



This residence includes off street parking for two cars.

PHOTOS/BOB NAROD

Circa 1795, this Federal-style residence exudes historic charm with many original elements, including heart of pine floors, four fireplaces with original mantels, a hand carved archway in the front hall, detailed moldings with bulls eye corners and two original staircases.

The sun-filled double parlor living rooms, each with a fireplace, are suitable for everyday family living.

Original doors and box locks throughout the home lend an air of character. The dining room door, with a fan light above and side lights, is also another original element of a Federal house.

In the dining room, the fireplace creates an inviting atmosphere flanked by a built-in china cabinet and rounded door, which leads to the kitchen. The kitchen has natural light, views of the private garden and adjoins a

breakfast area with exposed brick walls and stone floors.

There are four generously proportioned bedrooms with tall windows and 3.5 baths, which provide individual spaces for a growing family.

Enjoy al fresco dining on the rear patio. The deep garden features boxwoods, flagstone patio, and brick walkways, all shaded by mature landscaping. Off street parking for two cars.

AT A GLANCE

Location: 611 Queen St.
Neighborhood: Old Town
Price: \$1,985,000
Square feet: 2,474
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 3.5
Year built: 1795

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CALENDAR

OCTOBER 23

GRIEF AND GHOST TOURS Celebrate Halloween with a look at Victorian mourning traditions combined with stories of tragic deaths and mysterious encounters at the Lee-Fendall House. Learn more about the rituals and customs surrounding death in the Victorian period including funeral practices, hair jewelry, mourning clothing and séances. These tours offer a rare opportunity to see the house after dark. Tours will run on Oct. 23, 24, 30 and 31.

Time: 7 to 9:45 p.m.

Location: 614 Oronoco St.

Information: www.leefendallhouse.org

DEL RAY HALLOWEEN SCAVENGER HUNT

Walk the Avenue, in costume or not, and find Halloween-themed items in Del Ray's murals and decorated businesses. The hunt launches on Oct. 23 and will run through Oct. 31.

Time: Occurs throughout the day

Location: Various locations

Information: www.visitdelray.com/halloween

OCTOBER 24

HERBAL TEA TASTING AND BLENDING WORKSHOP

Most people think of herbal teas as a simple soothing beverage, but if made properly, herbal teas can be potent tools for healing and maintaining health. In this workshop, conducted in the format of a wine tasting, participants will have the opportunity to taste six different medicinal-strength herbal teas. The registra-

tion fee includes six herbal teas to taste during the class, all of which are caffeine-free, educational materials and a bag of herbal tea that you blend yourself in class, which is about 10-15 cups of tea.

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive

Information: <https://bit.ly/3klDa3F>

FREE FLOWING MUSICAL EXPERIENCE AT THE BIRCHMERE

Free Flowing Musical Experience, Alexandria's legendary acoustic jam band, returns to The Birchmere for a socially distanced acoustic session. The brainchild of local musicians Scott Fallon and Gregg Park, FFME features improvised setlists full of well-known songs, from 70s rock classics to traditional Irish foot-stompers.

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave.

Information: www.birchmere.com/calendar/

GARDEN FAIRY HOUSES: MAKING AT THE MANSION DAY

Some say that within the beautiful forest and gardens of Woodlawn Estate, the fairies are out playing at night, along with those ghosts everyone knows about. Get into the Halloween and fall spirit and get over to Woodlawn. For the first time, there will be a natural, foraged tiny house building activity within the grounds. Come and build with and support this new fundraiser for Woodlawn at the same time.

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: 9000 Richmond Highway-

Information: <https://bit.ly/3IJH7hf>

ACT 4 #ARTSALX: AN ARTS SHOW-CASE FUNDRAISER

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Alexandria Arts Alliance announces and invites residents to its first virtual fundraising event, streaming on Facebook Live. ACT 4 #ArtsALX will include inspiring video vignettes from 23 Alexandria-based artists and arts organizations representing the disciplines of music, dance, visual arts, theater, film and artisans as well as special appearances, including Mayor Justin Wilson and a cast member from Saturday Night Live, and more.

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Information: www.alexandriaartsalliance.org

OCTOBER 25

DEATH (AND MYSTERY) AT THE CITY TAVERN

Join staff of Gadsby's Tavern Museum via Zoom to study the puzzle of Civil War graffiti on the Tavern's attic walls. The night begins with the telling of the tragic stories of two Civil War soldiers who died in the building. Against this backdrop, participants will go virtually behind the scenes to follow the evidence in search of the story behind the perplexing prose artfully inscribed upon the walls.

Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Information: www.alexandria.gov/GadsbysTavern

OCTOBER 29

REALIGNING RESILIENCE: DISCUSSING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WITH GUSTAVO ANGELES

As climate change and extreme weather become ever present, people are calling attention to the disproportionate effects of climate instability and environmental under-representation on Black and Brown communities. Gustavo Angeles, environmental justice program coordinator for the Sierra Club's Virginia chapter, will discuss the importance of environmental justice, what it means and how to incorporate right thinking into your action.

Time: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Information: <https://alexlibrary-va.org/event/4629848>

OCTOBER 30

CARLYLE HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES: FARMER'S MARKET AND CONCERT

The Carlyle Vitality Initiative is hosting Halloween festivities with trick or treating at its farmer's market, including a Halloween concert in the evening at John Carlyle Square Park on Oct. 30.

Time: 2 to 7 p.m.

Location: 300 John Carlyle Square St.

Information: www.thecarlylecommunity.com/carlyle-events

OCTOBER 31

CLASSICAL MOVEMENTS' HALLOWEEN PERFORMANCES

With trick-or-treating and other Halloween

activities this year forced to go virtual or otherwise severely disrupted, Classical Movements is continuing its commitment to innovation with two socially-distanced programs. In the afternoon, parents and children will take delight in the illusions of beloved local magician and accomplished cellist Drew Owen, as Musico the Magnificent. Owen is joined by special guest Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra violist Elizabeth Pulju-Owen for an entertaining and bewitching afternoon program of magic and music. Then that evening, violinist Marissa Regni is joined by other string players from the National Symphony for an elegant, Venetian-inspired Halloween celebration under the full moon.

Time: 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Location: 711 Princess St.

Information: www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts-2/

NOVEMBER 17

GERMANY TO AMERICA: 18TH CENTURY ODYSSEY

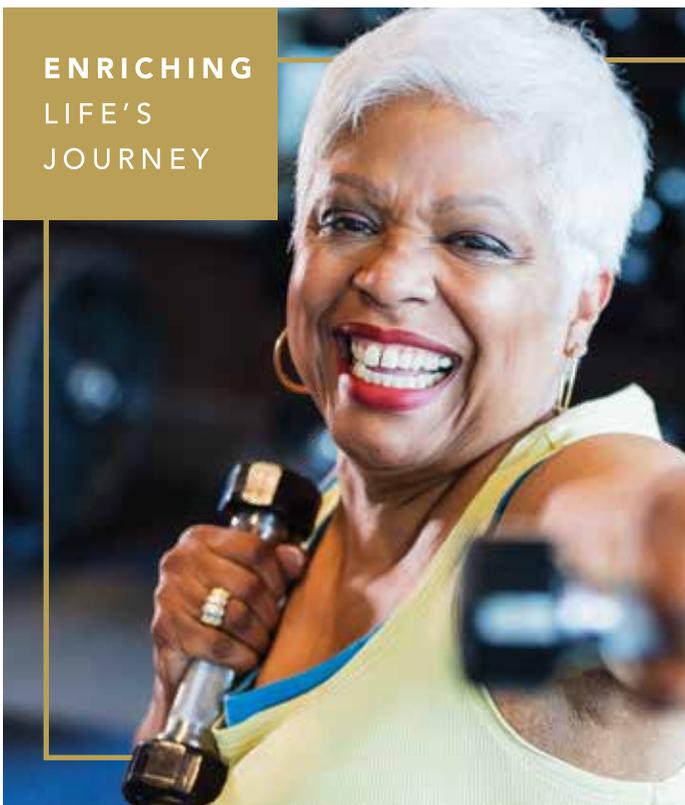
Genealogist and author James M. Beidler will speak about German immigrants to America, based on the personal memoirs of German-speaking immigrants, to dispel the myths about why they came, what the voyage was like and how they liked America. Register no later than Nov. 13.

Time: 1 to 2 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Information: contact-us@mvgenealogy.org

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LIFE'S
JOURNEY



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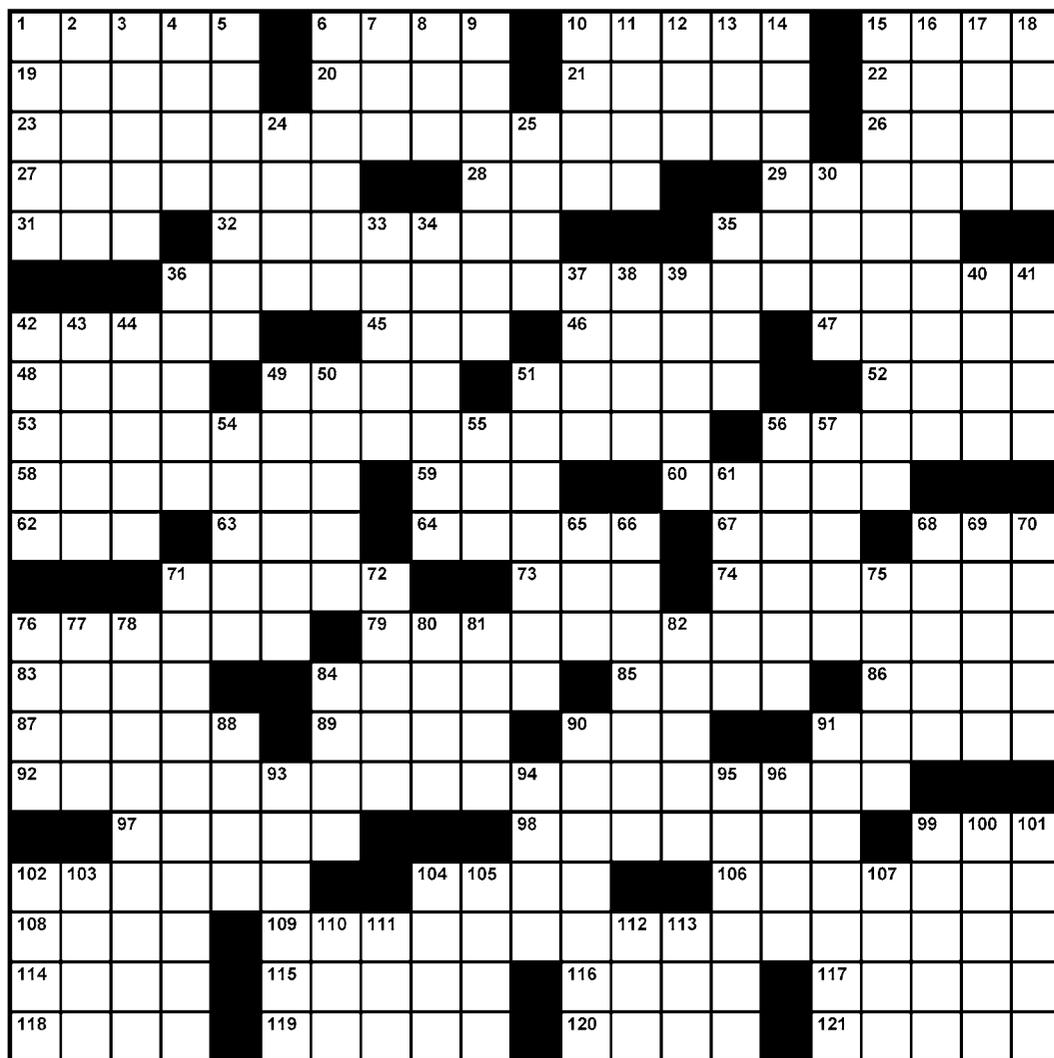
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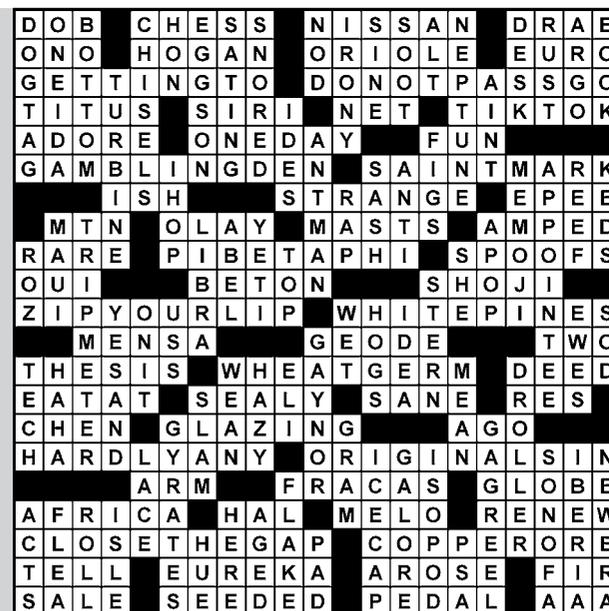
Weekly Words



DEATH NOTICES

- LEWIS ASHLEY (93)**, of Alexandria, Oct. 13, 2020
- JOHN COX (83)**, formerly of Alexandria, Oct. 17, 2020
- FRANK EVEREST (88)**, formerly of Alexandria, Oct. 11, 2020
- BASCOM N. LOCKETT (96)**, of Alexandria, Sept. 22, 2020
- ANN TATE (94)**, of Alexandria, Oct. 10, 2020
- FLORENCE M. YOUNG (78)**, formerly of Alexandria, Oct. 7, 2020

Solutions from last week



DOUBLE ELIMINATION by Christina Iverson, edited by David Steinberg

- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Doing battle</p> <p>6 "Really, though?"</p> <p>10 64-Across makes it rise</p> <p>15 Skirt shorter than a maxi</p> <p>19 Attraction phased out for orcas' well-being</p> <p>20 Bandmate of Crosby and Stills</p> <p>21 Words on Alice's cake</p> <p>22 Hipster's rep</p> <p>23 Wrestler's calculation to determine how old an opponent is? (hint: notice the C's)</p> <p>26 One of three in a day, often</p> <p>27 Monotonous</p> <p>28 Throw lightly</p> <p>29 Future revealer</p> <p>31 "Ideas worth spreading" group</p> <p>32 Went long</p> <p>35 Sip, or something to sip</p> <p>36 Person who's a little bit nice? (... A's)</p> <p>42 Desert rest stop</p> <p>45 Ravenclaw seeker Chang</p> <p>46 Many a college interviewer, informally</p> <p>47 Muscular tissue</p> <p>48 ___ Piper</p> <p>49 Low-calorie soda option</p> <p>51 Rapper ___ 3000</p> <p>52 Scandinavian capital</p> <p>53 Deity of long, thin pretzels?</p> | <p>(... L's)</p> <p>56 Irks</p> <p>58 Everyone in the South?</p> <p>59 Peak such as the Zugspitze</p> <p>60 Long stories</p> <p>62 Possessive for Black Panther</p> <p>63 Bit of hair cream</p> <p>64 See 10-Across</p> <p>67 Rapper Mos ___</p> <p>68 Bumble or Hinge</p> <p>71 Manages hardship</p> <p>73 Baby syllable</p> <p>74 It borders both Minnesota and New York</p> <p>76 Suggests</p> <p>79 Drive-through pub for '80s plush toys? (... E's)</p> <p>83 Already chopped down</p> <p>84 Preppy shirts</p> <p>85 Wee</p> <p>86 Word with "Star" or "wolf"</p> <p>87 Soak in a teapot</p> <p>89 "Leave that to me!"</p> <p>90 "___ Boot"</p> <p>91 Ones'; counterparts in binary</p> <p>92 Solar system that God is smoothing? (... T's)</p> <p>97 Doohickey</p> <p>98 Enters gradually</p> <p>99 One of the five W's</p> <p>102 York and New York</p> <p>104 Difficult</p> | <p>106 Doughy Jewish snacks</p> <p>108 ___ Sea (shrunken lake)</p> <p>109 Jacket that got soaked in Seattle, say? (... S's)</p> <p>114 Double agent, perhaps</p> <p>115 Online party notice</p> <p>116 Thing to scratch</p> <p>117 Divide in two</p> <p>118 Cyan and magenta liquids</p> <p>119 Speaks with a croaky voice</p> <p>120 "Good gravy!"</p> <p>121 Mean expression</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Wide neckwear</p> <p>2 Macbeth's title</p> <p>3 Undertook, as a battle</p> <p>4 Cry to a preacher</p> <p>5 "I hear ..."</p> <p>6 Plan (to)</p> <p>7 Pollen pouch</p> <p>8 "Somewhat"</p> <p>9 "Also, what you just said"</p> <p>10 Workers whose numbers are declining?</p> <p>11 Woolly males</p> <p>12 It's within the two Greek letters around it</p> <p>13 Qt. or pt.</p> <p>14 Remove antlers from</p> <p>15 Oversized houses people love to hate</p> <p>16 "Seems to be that way"</p> | <p>17 Hand out cards</p> <p>18 Inactive</p> <p>24 ___ advanced age</p> <p>25 Ending for "film"</p> <p>30 Purges</p> <p>33 Tied, like a boot</p> <p>34 Place to rest your butt?</p> <p>35 Small change?</p> <p>36 Kind of pool (var.)</p> <p>37 Popular drink mix</p> <p>38 Designer Gucci</p> <p>39 Some Iranians</p> <p>40 Depend (on)</p> <p>41 Counting by them often saves time</p> <p>42 O magazine founder</p> <p>43 Garlicky mayonnaise</p> <p>44 "She ___ seashells ..."</p> <p>49 Exercise on a track</p> <p>50 "Good gravy!"</p> <p>51 Promotional parts of a newspaper</p> <p>54 Gal of "Wonder Woman"</p> <p>55 World Cup cheer</p> <p>56 NASA, for instance</p> <p>57 '90s three-country pact</p> <p>61 Embellish</p> <p>65 (I'm so sad!)</p> <p>66 Exercises often done on a step</p> <p>68 Shady shelter</p> <p>69 Instrument played on a bench</p> <p>70 Tiny sweaters?</p> | <p>71 Movie buffs</p> <p>72 Teatime snack</p> <p>75 City where Van Gogh painted</p> <p>76 Attention-getting sound</p> <p>77 January 2021 pledge</p> <p>78 Butter up</p> <p>80 Landed</p> <p>81 Goes bad</p> <p>82 Some politicians reach across it</p> <p>84 Classic video game</p> <p>88 Ballet bend</p> <p>90 What an archer takes</p> <p>91 Pinnacles</p> <p>93 Solution</p> <p>94 Wonder Woman, e.g.</p> <p>95 What curious toddlers do</p> <p>96 Largest number in Sudoku</p> <p>99 Milk variety</p> <p>100 Lead-in to "ho"</p> <p>101 Economist/author Emily</p> <p>102 Sleeveless undergarment, briefly</p> <p>103 Metal in a ferrous wheel?</p> <p>104 Start of an address</p> <p>105 They can outrank kings</p> <p>107 Digitized photo, for one</p> <p>110 Actress Gabor or Mendes</p> <p>111 Bro's counterpart</p> <p>112 Where a hog wallows</p> <p>113 Channel for 71-Down</p> |
|---|---|--|---|--|

Our View

Listen to the scientists

While in “Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets” a clue to the antagonist’s identity was to “follow the spiders,” generally following the flow of money is a more productive approach.

Thus, it is worth looking at the financial aspects of the city’s proposed Taylor Run stream “restoration” project. We put quotation marks around the word restoration because we are dubious of plans that include destroying something in the name of saving it.

Several letter writers in the Times editorial pages have recently stated that cities and states should beware of the multi-billion-dollar stream restoration industry as they contemplate restoration projects.

These writers have said a one-size-fits-all approach is being pushed by these companies. At heart, their complaint is that groupthink is causing “natural channel design” to be advocated by bureaucrats who are administrators, not scientists, and by companies that stand to earn large profits.

These letter writers are correct about the money involved.

Environmental restoration is a \$25 billion industry that generates more direct jobs than steel production in the United States, according to ecosystemmarketplace.com.

The company that produced the Phase III Stream Restoration Study last year for the City of Alexandria is Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. The John Wood Group PLC, the parent company of Wood Environment, is a publicly traded British company with a market capitalization of 1.51 billion pounds, which is just a shade under \$2 billion.

The company hired as the consultant on the Taylor Run restoration project is Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. which is owned by the Davey Tree Expert Company. According to Wikipedia, Davey Tree is the largest residential tree company in the country. The privately owned company had revenues in 2018 of just over \$1 billion.

The second financial aspect of the Taylor Run project involves its estimated \$4.5 million price tag, and the \$2,255,000 grant Alexandria has received from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality from its Stormwater Local Assis-

tance Fund for this project.

The state set up this fund to help “municipalities implementing projects to reduce stormwater pollution as the new Chesapeake Bay TMDL requirements were being passed down,” according to the city’s website.

City staff have touted this grant and the restoration plan’s nearness to implementation as reasons that alternatives to the city’s preferred natural channel design shouldn’t be considered. It’s not clear, though, why this money could not be applied to alternative approaches, so long as the design achieves the desired pollution mitigation.

Scientists who have written to the Times have denounced the proposed plan for Taylor Run, saying what’s on the table will not achieve the desired results, and is actually “a mismanagement of public funds by inappropriately targeting sediment-control projects in places with low levels of the very nutrients for which funding is based ...”

This letter, “Wrong approach for stream restoration” in the Sept. 24 Times, was signed by 10 scientists and environmental experts, including a hydrogeologist, environmental scientist, fluvial geomorphologist, biologist, geologist and climate change scientist.

Finally, the elephant in the room, with this issue and most of the problems Alexandria is currently encountering with flooding, traffic and parking, stems from the city’s overdevelopment and the loss of pervious surfaces, also known as green space. This issue was addressed by geologist and former Vice Mayor Andrew MacDonald in the Oct. 15 Times:

“... the plan does not address stormwater runoff, which is the primary reason that Taylor Run is eroding its banks and deepening its channel. Most of the Taylor Run watershed or sewer-shed has been paved over. So, when it rains in the part of the watershed that lies above T.C. Williams, most of the water flows into culverts that lead to Chinguapin Park.”

Alexandria’s Department of Transportation and Environmental Services is run by Yon Lambert, who has a master’s degree in public administration. His deputy in charge of stormwater management,

SEE OUR VIEW

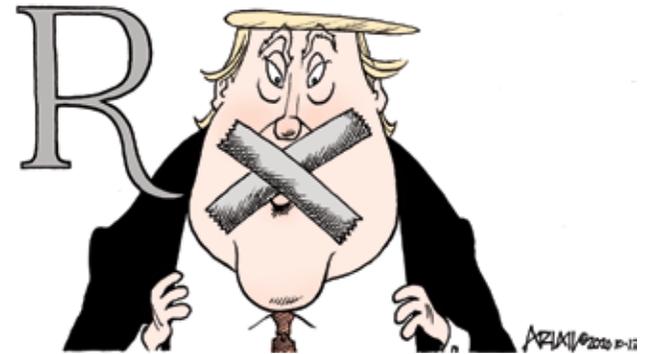
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Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson

DR. FAUCI'S PRESCRIPTION :



Your Views

Tired of environmental hypocrisy

To the editor:

It is said that the definition of a hypocrite is one who cuts down a magnificent tree and then uses the stump to stand on to make a speech about conservation. When it comes to environmental issues, the “Eco City” of Alexandria stands out as a prominent practitioner of hypocrisy at its worst.

The city is currently pushing for a “restoration” of Taylor Run which will result in disruption or destruction of native plants and a unique wetlands area. They also plan to destroy more than 200 trees in the process. While the city pushes for this destructive plan, Alexandria for many years has been dumping 11.3 million gallons of raw sewage each year into the Potomac River. Obviously, this sewage pollutes not only the river but also the Chesapeake Bay into which the Potomac flows.

Ironically, the city claims it needs to restore Taylor Run

in order to comply with Chesapeake Bay regulations. If it is truly concerned about the health of the Bay, it should make an urgent effort to address the raw sewage problem rather than to engage in the Taylor Run project which will destroy a precious ecological jewel in Alexandria.

Perhaps city officials need to be reminded that trees put oxygen into the air, thus playing an important role in fighting climate change. With each tree that is cut down, the effects of climate change are exacerbated.

The city must choose whether it prefers to remain on a tree stump, mouthing platitudes about the environment – perhaps the T.C. Williams High School tree stump – or to go out on a limb and become a true Eco City. Alexandria’s elected officials, it is up to you.

We voters are tired of your hypocrisy.

-Mary Zoeter,
Alexandria

Natural channel design doesn't protect forested stream valleys

To the editor:

Don Brady's "Defending Rosgen's design" in the Oct. 1, 2020 Alexandria Times missed the whole point as to adverse environmental impacts incurred when applying Rosgen's "natural channel design" method to forested, upper headwater streams in our area. There is insufficient room here to really discuss the matter, so I'll simply cite the words of a prominent former member of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Expert Panel.

According to Bill Stack, professional engineer, Center for Watershed Protection Deputy Director of Programs and co-lead in developing the "Recommendations of the Expert Panel to Define Removal Rates for Individual Stream Restoration Projects" with Tom Schueler of the Chesapeake Stormwater Network:

"I can no longer hide from the turmoil that I helped to create in the stream restoration industry. ...This action unleashed an unprecedented flurry of stream restoration projects identified in Watershed Implementation Plans and MS4 implementation plans across the Bay watershed which are now being implemented by a thriving billion-dollar stream restoration industry comprised of engineers, hydro-geomorphologists, and a few biologists. I forgot to mention big-time financiers. Also, take notice of what I said about 'few biologists.'

"Stream restoration today is the panacea for MS4 managers to meet their sed-

iment and nutrient reduction commitments. ...There is a big "however" having to do with several major unintended consequences. A severe training need exists among local and state governments, NGOs and practitioners in understanding their application and the appropriate siting of projects.

"Also, the Expert Panel felt strongly that as a qualifying condition to receive credit, projects have to be part of a comprehensive watershed plan that also addresses the root causes of stream bank erosion: imperious cover. Further, stream restoration projects are supposed to demonstrate 'functional lift' or improvement to the ecosystem.

"Generally, this is not happening, at least not to the extent that it should. Few biologists or ecologists are asked to participate in the design of stream restoration projects. As a result, municipalities are spending enormous amounts of money on projects that generate the necessary water quality credit but have no real impact on stream function. ...I am not sure what it will take to make these projects part of an integrated watershed plan to provide functional lift beyond the sediment and nutrient credits. Perhaps this will come after we spend billions of dollars on these projects and the taxpayers ask, 'why can't I catch fish in this stream?'"

-Rod Simmons,
ecological restoration
specialist

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.



Ethical Reflections

with Rev. Ian Markham

Toleration and political disagreements

The word toleration is often misunderstood. Often the word is applied to people who "enjoy hanging out with different types of people." In truth, this is wrong; the idea of toleration and enjoyment rarely go together.

It was John Locke, the great English political theorist, who wrote the famous treatise called "A Letter Concerning Toleration." It was published in 1689 against the backdrop of the European wars of religion. From the Knights' Revolt in 1522 through the Thirty Years' War, 1618 to 1648, Locke was deeply aware of how difficult it was for a society to embrace fundamental disagreement.

The issue then was religion. Locke argued that the state can permit a variety of religious viewpoints within the realm and should do so. He did, however, draw a limit around the extent of that toleration. He insisted that Roman Catholics were a problem because they accepted the authority of a foreign ruler, namely the Pope. Atheists were a problem because he said they have no basis for their morality.

But among Protestant groups, the state could tolerate religious diversity. It was an idea that went on to have an enormous impact, leading ultimately to the Establishment Clause in the United States Constitution. Going back to Locke is helpful, for we can see here the main contours of the idea of toleration.

Toleration involves two primary features. First, there must be fundamental disagreement. Second, there must be some type of power dynamic. So, if you are hosting a dinner party and you have a possible guest who holds opposing political views, then you are a tolerant person if you invite that person. Or, if you are hiring for a position or have a property to rent and have a potential employee or renter who lives in a lifestyle that provokes your disapproval, then you are a tolerant person if you hire, or rent to, that person.

As we approach the 2020 presidential election, we are learning that most people are not tolerant. For many people, to socialize with a supporter of President Donald Trump or with an advocate of the

views of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is unthinkable. In the same way that Locke excluded Roman Catholics and atheists, Americans are creating very firm lines around acceptable conversation partners. Republicans want to exclude these "unpatriotic socialists who want to destroy the American way of life." Democrats want to exclude those "racist advocates for the rich."

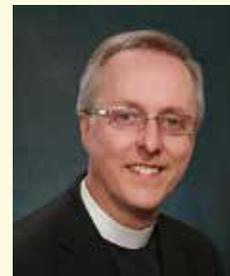
In my experience, most people are much more nuanced and complex than the stereotype portrayed by the "other side." In the same way that Locke could not appreciate an atheistic humanism that supported the social contract or a Roman Catholic who confined the authority of the Pope to the religious realm, so we cannot appreciate the way our political rivals are forming their political views.

This is all compounded by the news bubble effect. We are all living in an echo-chamber. Our social media fills up with like-sounding rhetoric. We would never dream of watching MSNBC or Fox News. So we tolerate less and less. The country is finely balanced between Republicans and Democrats and increasing numbers on both sides cannot tolerate the other half of America.

Now there are groups that we all should have a problem tolerating. Holocaust deniers and white supremacists hold shocking views that undermine our moral commitment to the human rights of all people. However, while there is a legitimate boundary for toleration, on matters where the issues are less fundamental, it is good to stretch our concept of toleration as far as we are able.

Ultimately, a society that cannot tolerate fundamental disagreements will split apart. The costs of such division are high. So please search out different news sources. Search out the neighbor who looks at the world differently. Let us all learn again to tolerate fundamental disagreement.

The writer is dean and president of Virginia Theological Seminary.



REV. IAN
MARKHAM

Get police out of schools

To the editor:

All children deserve to go to school and feel safe and supported. During a regular school year, we all ride the bus, walk or carpool to school and spend the day filing in and out of different classrooms, joking with our friends in the hallways, imagining what we'll end up doing on the weekend.

However, as Black and brown children, our school days also involve the anxiety and fear that we are being carefully watched. A fear that follows us from our communities to our schools.

As soon as we arrive, we see the cop cars parked in the parking lots. We don't feel safe. We are constantly nervous that any little mistake we make will be the reason we are confronted and deemed criminals by the police officers monitoring the halls of our school, a place that's supposed to take care of us and nourish our minds. This is why "getting to know" the officers in our schools isn't the solution – if they don't make us safe in our neighborhoods, why would they make us feel safe in our schools?

Since the Black Lives Matter movement came back to the nation's

attention this summer, students and community members across the country have been fighting for police-free schools so that students like me are able to prosper and grow without the looming threat of violence and incarceration.

I am a youth organizer with Tenants and Workers United, and we've been fighting to improve the conditions in our school system. We've listened to each other's stories and come to the conclusion that most of us feel unsafe and uncomfortable in our learning environments because the presence of School Resource Officers weighs so heavily on our minds.

We feel we can't move through our schools freely without SROs assuming we are up to no good. We've experienced situations where officers pull students out of class for being distracted, but isn't an armed officer physically handling one of our classmates and taking them away more disruptive to our academic success and mental health?

Some of us even attended George Washington Middle School when the SRO on site accidentally discharged a weapon inside our school, a mistake that can easily endanger someone

in stressful situations. The fact that they are armed in the first place is very disturbing to us. We know for a fact that SROs are only required to have two months of training, yet we are supposed to trust our lives in their hands? This is why we, as youth of color, feel it is important to speak out about this issue that is directly affecting us.

We have spoken to school board members, city council members, our superintendent and even Mayor Justin Wilson. We've researched and found that youth of color are suspended from schools at disproportionately higher levels compared to our white classmates, which often leads to involving the police.

For example, in the 2017-2018 school year, 18% of out-of-school suspensions involved law enforcement referrals. Because of these numbers, we've fought to implement restorative justice practices as alternatives to suspensions that would give us the opportunity to be heard, understood and given chances to grow instead of being pushed into the school-to-prison pipeline. However, it makes no sense for us to have to ask for more resources and funding for restorative

justice practices, when SROs will continue to criminalize us.

This is why we fully believe that the only way the school board will ensure Black and brown youth are given a chance to a healthy, successful academic career will be by ending the school-to-prison pipeline by voting to not partner with Alexandria police.

If Alexandria City Public Schools really wants to create and maintain safe and healthy schools, they should invest in proper training for our counselors, social workers and teachers and provide other resources that actually effectively nurture our lives. Renewing or only slightly changing the contract with Alexandria police will only continue the harm already being done to youth of color like ourselves.

The Alexandria School Board has the power to end their contract with Alexandria Police and they should, because our schools should be for education not criminalization. Fund our futures, not our trauma.

- Abenaa Buabeng,
youth organizer, Tenants and Workers
United

Fighting with bureaucracies

To the editor:

D.C. Police have reported the pandemic has driven car thefts up 33% from last year. Just hope if your car is stolen and driven into D.C., like mine was, the thief does not exceed the speed limit. Otherwise, in addition to all the conventional hassles of dealing with insurance, you may find yourself, like me, in a forced pen pal relationship with the DMV Hearing Examiner, who can operate arbitrarily and with impunity.

At the end of June, my car was stolen from our driveway in Alexandria and used in a homicide in Washington, D.C., where, sadly, a 19-year-old man was shot in the head. While driving the car to and from the murder scene, the thieves also received multiple D.C. Department of Motor Vehicles traffic camera speeding tickets, which the

DMV dutifully sent me.

I thought contesting these tickets would be simple until I found out that D.C.'s budget has a fiscal dependence on fines. In 2018, D.C. issued \$104.5 million in citations. And, D.C. is counting on those funds, as their budget protections, as far out as 2023, depend on collecting fines and speeding tickets. From 2016 to 2018, of the nearly 270,000 people who contested citations, more than 70% lost. Last year, almost 90% of the challenges were dismissed.

Therefore, I should not have been shocked when, after contesting the tickets three times, D.C. DMV notified me I was being given ten days, and one last chance to challenge the tickets or I will be held liable for thousands of dollars in fines, which double every 30 days.

I already submitted copies of two D.C. police reports. One stipulates the car was reported stolen in Virginia and recovered in D.C. The other is the homicide report. The arresting police officer and homicide detective have offered to corroborate the information.

Our family has cooperated with the authorities: We have allowed the D.C. police to search the vehicle, and we have submitted to DNA tests. And D.C. is still holding the car as evidence.

Our taxpayer-funded Records Office at the Alexandria Police Department has not been helpful. On the contrary. Records personnel will not issue a copy of a police report to any resident. The only way to receive "a certificate" stating the car was stolen is to send \$10 via snail mail and a self-addressed-and-stamped-

envelope with a request.

E-mail? Nope. Online? No system. Go in person to the APD? Nope. It's closed because of COVID. When I explained I needed the documentation in a rush otherwise I may be held liable for thousands of dollars in fines, the Records employee replied there was no system to rush anything. I bet.

Last week we received some good news. The D.C. detective notified me an arrest had been made. Both the D.C. detective and the Virginia police officer have been fantastic at keeping us informed. I do hope that bureaucracies in D.C. and Virginia invest the same kind of energy and diligence they spend in shaking me down in supporting their frontline officers' essential efforts to protect and serve the public.

SEE BUREAUCRACIES

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OUT OF THE ATTIC

Pharmacy and the Stabler family

While the name Stabler in Alexandria is generally associated with Edward Stabler and his apothecary business on South Fairfax Street, now known as the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, several of his sons also made pharmacy their profession. William, Richard H. and Edward H. all followed their father into successful pharmacy practices during their lifetimes.

William Stabler, Edward's eldest son, apprenticed under his father and eventually took over the business after his father's death in 1831. John Leadbeater, William's brother-in-law, joined the business in 1844 and the two men ran one of the most successful medicine and retail businesses in Alexandria during their partnership, only ending in 1852 at William's death. The Leadbeater family continued

the business until it was forced into bankruptcy and closed in 1933.

Richard Hartshorne Stabler, William's younger brother and Edward's seventh child, also apprenticed under his father at the apothecary shop but chose to pursue a more formal medical education, receiving a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1843.

Upon gaining his degree, Stabler returned to Alexandria and advertised in the Alexandria Gazette in April 1843 that he was available to see patients at his office on Fairfax Street. For reasons unknown, though, Stabler announced less than a year later in February 1844 that he was closing his medical practice and offering up his office for rent.

The lure of the family pharmacy business was evidently strong, though,

and by February 1848, Stabler advertised that he had opened his own pharmacy at the northwest corner of King and Washington Streets. This shop, located at what was then 165 King St., proved to be successful, and Stabler operated it until his death in 1878, when his son Laurence took over the business.

In addition to operating his shop, Stabler was also involved with the professionalization of the practice of pharmacy. After serving as the American Pharmaceutical Association's first vice president in 1864, he was elected to serve as their president in 1870. Stabler also taught pharmacy classes at the National College of Pharmacy in Washington, D.C. from 1872 to 1878.

Edward Hartshorne Stabler also operated a successful pharmacy business after apprenticing with the family. Stabler first

set up shop on Pennsylvania Avenue in D.C. in 1832 before moving to Baltimore and establishing a large wholesale business under the name E.H. Stabler and Co. that operated through the 1840s and 1850s.

The Stabler family's involvement in the pharmacy industry in the 19th century mirrors the larger historical trend of the small local apothecary of Edward Stabler's time evolving into the multi-state wholesale pharmacy businesses of his sons William, Richard and Edward.

To learn more about this family business, visit the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum as it re-opens to the public for limited tours in November.

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

BUREAUCRACIES FROM | 28

I have also sent a copy of the letter the Commonwealth of Virginia Victim-Witness Assistance Office sent me documenting I was a victim of a grand larceny auto in Alexandria. Hopefully, that

will suffice.

If D.C. DMV continues to penalize innocent people for the sake of obtaining revenue, it will drive away, no pun intended, law-abiding, decent citizens who want to live within its boundaries or tourists who want to see this

beautiful city.

D.C. needs to get its act together and stop depending on speeding traps and denying contested tickets to make its budget. Meanwhile, the Virginia Police Records Department should, at a minimum, update its 1980's

snail mail system and provide its tax-paying residents with an online system that allows its residents to access the documentation they need. and are entitled to have.

-Kristina Arriaga, Alexandria

OUR VIEW FROM | 26

Jesse Maines, also has an MPA. While clearly intelligent and capable, neither are

scientists.

All year long, regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been told to listen to experts and follow the sci-

ence. Why would the same approach not apply to an important debate about a local environmental treasure?

Let's pause this project

and let our remarkable cadre of scientists help develop a plan that reduces pollution without destroying our forest.

Weekly Poll

Last Week

Do you approve of the ACPS plan to hold off on in-person instruction until January 2021 for all but disabled students?

68% No, all younger students need to start receiving some in-person learning ASAP. **29% Yes, it's safest for students and teachers.** **3% I'm not sure.**

This Week

What do you think about the planned "restoration" project at Taylor Run, next to Chinquapin Rec Center?

A) Unnecessarily cutting down 270 trees would be an ecological crime. Find a different solution. **B) The project is too close to starting to change it now. It needs to move forward.** **C) I'm not sure.** **D) What's Taylor Run?**

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LEGAL NOTICE



LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Architectural Review (BAR) will hold an Electronic Public Hearing on WEDNESDAY, November 4, 2020 beginning at 7:00 p.m. to review the following item(s):

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, the November 4, 2020 meeting of the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2 3708.2(A)(3), the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on June 20, 2020 or Section 4-0.01(g) in HB29 and HB30, enacted by the 2020 Virginia General Assembly (Virginia Acts of Assembly Ch. 1283 and 1289), to undertake essential business. BAR board members and staff are participating from remote locations through Zoom Webinar. This meeting is being held electronically, unless a determination is made that it is safe enough for the meeting to be held in person in the City Council Chamber at 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA. Electronic access will be provided in either event.

URL: <https://zoom.us/join/916161801>

The Board of Architectural Review Hearing will start at 7:00 p.m., while the Zoom Webinar will become available to join at 6:30 p.m.

Zoom Audio Conference:
Dial in: 301.715.8592
Webinar ID: 941 6416 1801
Password: 560241

Public comments will be received at the meeting. The public may submit comments in advance to Lia Niebauer at lia.niebauer@alexandriava.gov or make public comments through the conference call on the day of the hearing.

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Jackie Cato at jackie.cato@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.3810, Virginia Relay 711.

For further information, call the Department of Planning & Zoning at 703.746.4666 or visit alexandriava.gov/dockets

BAR #2020-00509 OHAD Request for partial demolition/encapsulation at 424 North Washington Street. Applicant: The BurnBrae Companies

BAR #2020-00506 OHAD Request for addition and alterations at 424 North Washington Street. Applicant: The BurnBrae Companies

BAR #2020-00220 OHAD Request for partial demolition/encapsulation at 1221 Prince Street. Applicants: Matthew Newton and Jennifer Zakriski

BAR #2020-00193 OHAD Request for alterations at 1221 Prince Street. Applicants: Matthew Newton and Jennifer Zakriski

BAR #2020-00296 PG Request for partial demolition/encapsulation at 315 North Patrick Street. Applicant: Shambhu Aryal

BAR #2020-00363 PG Request for addition/alterations at 315 North Patrick Street. Applicant: Shambhu Aryal

BAR #2020-00482 OHAD Request for partial demolition/encapsulation at 518 Queen Street. Applicant: Tracey L. Spotts

BAR #2020-00473 OHAD Request for addition and alterations at 518 Queen Street. Applicant: Tracey L. Spotts

BAR #2020-00504 OHAD Request for partial demolition/encapsulation at 915 South Saint Asaph Street. Applicant: Kenneth W. Miller

BAR #2020-00503 OHAD Request for addition and alterations at 915 South Saint Asaph Street. Applicant: Kenneth W. Miller

BAR #2020-00500 OHAD Request for partial demolition/encapsulation at 1309 Prince Street. Applicants: Mark and Lauren Shanks

BAR #2020-00502 OHAD Request for addition and alterations at 1309 Prince Street. Applicants: Mark and Lauren Shanks

BAR #2020-00396 PG Request for new construction at 1413 Princess Street. Applicant: Deyi Awadallah

BAR #2020-00412 PG Request for new construction at 1415 Princess Street. Applicant: Deyi Awadallah

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE



**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA,
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FINANCE DEPARTMENT/PUR-
CHASING 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 via digital submission at: <https://service.alexandriava.gov/MSS/Vendors/default.aspx> by the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:
Title: Request for Qualifications No. 937, Duke Street/West Taylor Run Intersection Improvement.
Closing Date and Time: November 16, 2020, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.
For general inquiries contact Randy Burns, CPPB, Purchasing Agent at randy.burns@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.

LEGAL NOTICE



The Alexandria City School Board will hold an online public hearing on proposals to rename T.C. Williams High School and Matthew Maury Elementary School during its Virtual School Board Meeting on October 29, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Public comments regarding the renaming may be submitted in the following ways:

- **Sign up to speak** at the 10/29/20 virtual public hearing (4:00 p.m.) at: <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/board/meetings>
- **Email written comments** to the Clerk of the Board at: boardclerk@acps.k12.va.us
- **U.S. Mail:**
Clerk of the Board,
Alexandria City School Board
Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA 22314
- **Telephone message:**
703-619-8316

For more information, please contact the Clerk of the Board.

HELP WANTED

The UPS Store on Duke St in the Alexandria Commons shopping plaza is looking for dynamic individuals to join our team. We pack & ship domestically and internationally, as well as provide print, fax, notary, and mailbox services. Interested applicants should send an email to: store3708@theupsstore.com with the subject line **APPLICANT**



ORDER OF PUBLICATION
Commonwealth of Virginia VA. CODE § 8.01-316

Case No. 2027606-01-00

General District Court
 Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re DENIS JAVIER RAMIREZ CORTES

vs.

The object of this suit is to:
DETERMINE CUSTODY

It is ORDERED that the defendant MERINA ESTELA CORTES URQUILLA appear at the above-named Court and protect his or her interests on or before 11/05/2020 at 11:00 AM



COURTESY PHOTO

Bernie Cohen with daughter Karen Cohen in front of the Supreme Court of Virginia, upon Karen's swearing in to the bar of Virginia.



COURTESY PHOTO

Bernie Cohen campaigning for the House of Delegates, approximately 1979.

COHEN FROM | 13

devotion to his family – his wife, Rae, and children, Bennett and Karen.

Rae Cohen concurred, “I understood the time that he had to put into these important cases. He thought they were especially important and deserved the time and attention. ... It was a wonderful relationship. I couldn’t have done better.”

Bernie Cohen shared a love of flying airplanes and riding motorcycles with his son, Bennett.

“I had a very special bond

with my father. We loved to go flying together. ... He wasn’t a daredevil. He was a calculated risk taker,” Bennett Cohen said. “That’s one of the things that I learned from my dad was how to manage risk.”

Karen Cohen remembers her father as someone who mentored others and helped boost the careers of other lawyers – including her.

“Bennett was the kid who brought out dad’s inner adventurer. I was the kid who brought out dad’s inner nerd,” Karen Cohen said. “We shared the love of the law. Dad went to Georgetown and so did I.”

After Cohen’s death, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam announced that flags throughout the state would be flown at half-staff on the day of his interment. Northam’s statement read, in part:

“Bernard S. Cohen lived his life taking on injustice. As a lawmaker and an attorney, he fought for justice and equality from the Virginia Capitol to the United States Supreme Court, where

his landmark 1967 victory in *Loving v. Virginia* overturned the ban [on] interracial marriage and was cited in the court’s [2015] ruling on marriage equality.

“Thanks to his courageous work and lifetime of service, Virginia’s air is cleaner, our politics are more spirited, and our laws are fairer and more loving.”

Bernard S. Cohen was born on Jan. 17, 1934 in Brooklyn, New York to Jewish immigrants from Latvia and Romania. His father was a fur worker who was active in a local union, which informed Bernie Cohen’s passion for helping working people, according to Wikipedia.

He graduated from Georgetown University law school in 1960 and practiced law in Alexandria, specializing in environmental and employment law, until his retirement in 2006, according to the Free Lance-Star. Cohen served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1980 to 1996.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Rae, children, Bennett and Karen, and three grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations in Cohen’s honor may be made to the ACLU, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, or The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research.



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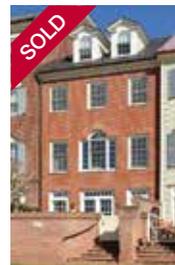
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