



## John Warner dies at 94

**Longtime Republican senator was known for moderate views and Alexandria roots**

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

John Warner, a former Republican U.S. senator, died at his Alexandria home on May 25 due to a heart ailment. He was 94.

Widely known throughout his five terms for his innate ability to garner support on both sides of the political aisle, Warner ultimately left his mark as someone who operated with patience, curiosity and a deep mastery of the Senate process.

Warner served in the U.S. Senate, representing Virginia from 1979 to 2009 — making him the second longest serving senator from Virginia, behind Harry F. Byrd.

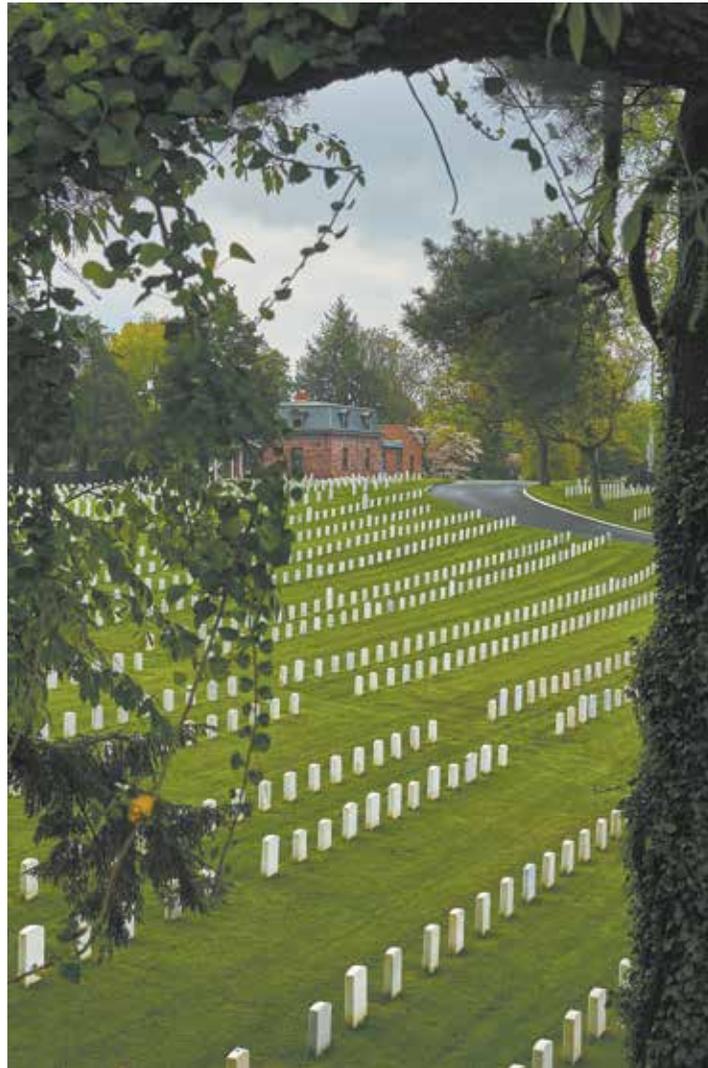
Born on Feb. 18, 1927 in Washington D.C. to Martha Budd and John William Warner Jr., Warner enlisted in the U.S. Navy at 17 and served during World War II. After the war, Warner received an undergraduate degree from Washington and Lee University and attended the University of Virginia Law school, later leaving to join the U.S. Marine Corps in 1950.

He later completed his law degree at George Washington University in 1953 and worked as an assistant attorney in a private law practice. Warner went on to serve as U.S. Secretary of the Navy in President Richard Nixon's administration from 1972 until 1974.

Although Warner first ran for a U.S. Senate seat in 1978, he lost the Republican primary to Richard Obenshain. Several months before the general election however, Obenshain was killed in a plane crash and Warner

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PHOTO/JOHN COSIMANO

Memorial Day looked a little more normal this year, as residents gathered at the Alexandria National Cemetery and the Captain Rocky Versace Plaza and Vietnam Veterans Memorial to honor the country's fallen soldiers.

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Young writers engage in social change and gear up for summer.

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Ensure your pup does not overheat during the dog days of summer.

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## City responds to overdose increase

**Alexandria adapts with increased education and recovery efforts**

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

The number of opioid overdoses rose about 36% in Alexandria during 2020, reflecting statewide and national spikes in both fatal and non-fatal drug overdoses throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to data collected by the Alexandria Police Department and the Alexandria Fire Department's Emergency Medical Services, there were 105 total opioid overdoses, both fatal and non-fatal, in 2020. In 2019, there were 73 total opioid overdoses in the city.

Notably, although the total number of opioid overdoses was higher in 2020 than in 2019, the number of fatal overdoses decreased slightly, and the number of non-fatal overdoses increased. There were 13 fatal and 92 non-fatal overdoses in 2020 compared to 14 fatal and 59 non-fatal overdoses in 2019, according to the city. While 2020 marked the highest number of total overdoses in four years, the data also shows that the city's ongoing efforts around education and Naloxone-induced recovery are taking hold in the community.

When the pandemic hit in March 2020, it created a perfect storm for those struggling with addiction, Emily Bentley, the city's opioid response coordinator, said.

"A large public health crisis was already underway, and then it got slammed by another public health crisis, and the two to-

SEE **OVERDOSE**

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WEEKLY BRIEFING

# Inova celebrates Pride Month



COURTESY PHOTO

To kick off Pride Month, Inova Alexandria Hospital staff, including President Dr. Rina Bansal, gathered on Tuesday to raise the rainbow flag outside the hospital. The flag will fly all month long, as "Inova is proud to celebrate Pride Month alongside our LGBTQ+ team members, patients, families and their allies," according to a statement from Inova.

## James Ross to continue with ASO

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra has extended its contract with Music Director James Ross through the 2023-2024 season, according to a news release.

Ross first joined the ASO in 2018 and was appointed as the fifth music director in the organization's 78-year history.

Ross, who was featured

in the Alexandria Times' podcast, *Speak Easy*, has led orchestras across the world, including the Leipzig Gewandhaus, the Orquesta Sinfónica de Galicia, the KwaZulu Natal Philharmonic and the National Symphony Orchestra, according to the release.

Ross led the ASO during a

particularly difficult year for live music, producing virtual programs and multiple free, outdoor, small-scale community concerts over the past year.

The ASO will announce its 2021-2022 season schedule in the near future. For more information, visit [alexsym.org](http://alexsym.org).

*-oanderson@alextimes.com*

## ACT for Alexandria hosts racial equity forum

ACT for Alexandria will host its IMPACT Racial Equity Forum on June 9 and 10, according to a news release.

Featuring prominent local speakers, including Alexandria Black History Museum Director Audrey Davis and city historian Daniel Lee, the virtual event will provide an opportunity for attendees to

"learn, connect and commit to an equitable Alexandria for all," according to the release. The event's keynote speaker is Nisha G. Patel, executive director of the U.S. Partnership on Mobility from Poverty at the Urban Institute.

The event will also include breakout sessions on topics such as the history of racism

in Alexandria and end with attendees discussing how to work toward racial equity personally and professionally.

The conference takes place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on both June 9 and 10 and costs \$35 for both days. For more information, visit [www.actforalexandria.org/](http://www.actforalexandria.org/).

*-oanderson@alextimes.com*



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Explore more at [VisitAlexandriaVA.com/Waterfront](http://VisitAlexandriaVA.com/Waterfront)



## WEEKLY BRIEFING

## Early voting deadline approaches

The deadline to vote early for the Democratic primary is June 5, with the primary election taking place on June 8.

All registered voters in Virginia are eligible to vote by mail or in person, and do not register by political party. The ballot includes contests for Virginia governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, House of Delegates, mayor and City Council.

In-person early voting hours will take place at the Office of Voter Registration & Elections, 132 N. Royal St., Suite 100, on Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additional extended hours are available today, June 3, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

and Saturday, June 5, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For those who plan on voting by mail, completed mail-in ballots must be returned to the Office of Voter Registration & Elections by 7 p.m. on June 8 or postmarked by June 8 and received in the office by noon on June 11.

Those who plan on voting in-person on June 8, must arrive at their designated polling station between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. To confirm location and registration status, visit [vote.elections.virginia.gov](http://vote.elections.virginia.gov).

There are several temporary changes to Election Day polling places: The voting location for the Ladrey Senior Building Precinct has

been changed to Charles Houston Recreation Center; the voting location for the Hermitage Precinct has been changed to John Adams Elementary School; and the voting location for the Douglas MacArthur School Precinct has been changed to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

Ballot drop boxes will be available at all polling places on June 8 from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. A secure outdoor drop box is available in front of the Office of Voter Registration & Elections 24 hours a day until June 8 at 7 p.m.

For more information, visit [alexandria.gov/Elections](http://alexandria.gov/Elections).

-oanderson@alextimes.com

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## Goodie's Frozen Custard officially opens



Goodie's Frozen Custard, 200 Commerce St.

PHOTO/GOODIES

After weeks of Instagram updates and a few delays, Goodie's Frozen Custard is officially open for business.

Owner Brandon Byrd held a soft opening at the newly revamped ice house on a rainy Saturday, but residents and fans of style frozen treats lined up with their umbrellas out and hoods up to get

a taste of Goodie's Wisconsin-style custard.

As Byrd described in his appearance on the Times' podcast, Speak Easy, Goodie's takes a back to basics approach, offering only one flavor – vanilla – with a variety of toppings and "custard-wich" treats, such as brownies, apple cider donuts and

rum cake.

Originally a food truck, Goodie's first brick and mortar location at 200 Commerce St. in Old Town was formerly occupied by Mutual Ice Company during the 1930s. Byrd plans on continuing to use the food truck, nicknamed Gigi, for special events.

-cmelloklein@alextimes.com



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UNDER CONTRACT

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SOLD

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## OVERDOSE

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gether have just dramatically shifted the ground for opioid recovery," Bentley said.

Suddenly, the resources that were available to those who were either looking for or already engaged in recovery were gone. Narcotics Anonymous groups cancelled their in-person meetings, 12-Step programs took a step back, therapy moved online and the Alexandria Residential Treatment Program, which provides detox for those recovering from substance use addiction, shut down.

"The biggest battle for most peoples' recovery journey is isolation, and what did everybody face suddenly? An increase in stress, increase in the unknown and increase in isolation," Bentley said.

According to Bentley, another potential cause of the increase in overdoses in the city was the shift to virtual medical services, particularly for patients who had prescription medication.

"So many doctors' appointments moved virtual throughout the pandemic that I think doctors' offices were trying to really get through the pandemic and may have been doing more already to refill prescriptions to get somebody through to their next in-person appointment ... in a way that maybe historically they would have ended the prescription a couple months before," Bentley said. "Because they were doing it virtually, they just continued with refills."

The local increase in overdoses was not an isolated

trend but reflective of a state-wide and nationwide uptick in the number of drug overdoses.

In December 2020, the Virginia Department of Health's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner reported that 2020 was a record year for fatal overdoses statewide. In just the first half of 2020, there were 2,053 fatal drug overdoses in Virginia, a 66.8% increase over the same period in 2019, according to VDH.

The total number of fatal overdoses in the first half of 2020 was about 55% higher than the number of gun-related deaths, 1,166, and about 72% higher than the number of motor-vehicle related deaths, 962. Although the pandemic exacerbated this trend, Virginia has been facing this challenge for years. Since 2013, fatal drug overdoses have been the leading cause of unnatural death in Virginia, according to VDH.

The city's approach prior to and during the pandemic has been based on community education and providing the community with Naloxone. Also known as Narcan, Naloxone is a prescription medicine used to treat people suffering from an overdose.

Prior to March 2020, the city ran in-person "revive trainings" where, twice every month, residents could learn how to administer Narcan. According to Bentley, as a result of the pandemic, the trainings shifted to a virtual mail-out program in which anyone interested in accessing Narcan can email their name and address to the city and get Nar-

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COMPASS



OVERDOSE

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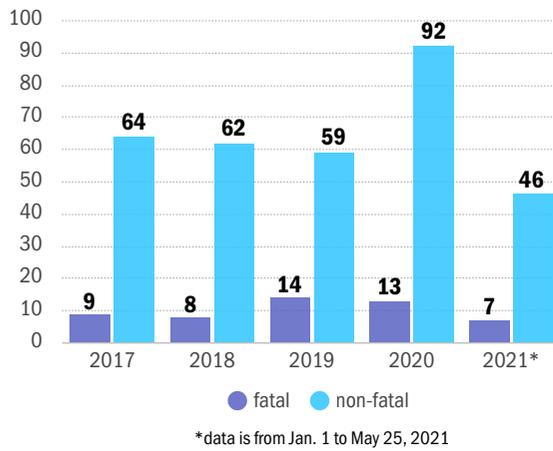
can mailed to their door.

“We’ve gotten many more people interested in caring and having Narcan than we did when we were doing it in person. The access made it easier for people,” Bentley said.

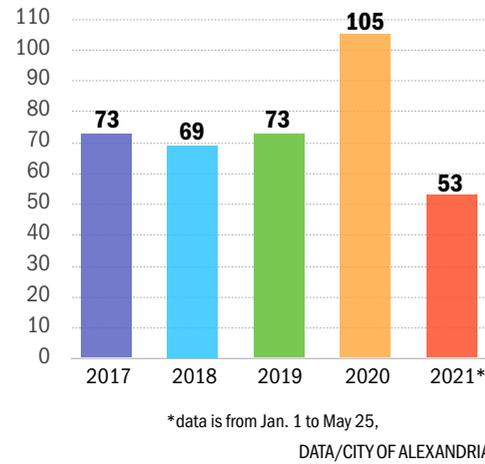
Since the beginning of 2020, the city has dispensed 225 Narcan boxes through the mail-out program, at in-person trainings and through a program that provides Narcan kits to inmates, according to Bentley. In 2020, the city also issued Narcan to 164 people as part of its opioid treatment program.

The city has also partnered with the fire department’s Emergency Medical Services division to distribute information and Narcan at the scene of overdoses in the form of recovery bags. The partnership, which is still in its formative stages, allows medics to give safety kits to

Fatal and non-fatal opioid overdoses in Alexandria



Total opioid overdoses in Alexandria



In 2020, the city experienced a sharp increase in the number of opioid overdoses. The number of non-fatal overdoses increased from 2019, while the number of fatal overdoses decreased by one from 2019.

those that have just experienced an overdose or to the family of someone who has just experienced an overdose. The kits include information about Narcan use and recovery and treatment services, as well as Narcan.

Brian Hricik, deputy chief of EMS, said the city’s approach to Narcan distribu-

tion is paying off.

“Over the past two to three years, [with] the added availability of Narcan, we’ve seen a reduction in our use because it’s out there in the public,” Hricik said. “People are using it prior to us arriving, and they’re using the nasal Narcan, which is highly effective, it’s very quick-acting.”

According to Hricik, this partly explains why even though the number of opioid overdoses increased in 2020, the vast majority of overdose incidents were non-fatal.

The city has also launched a harm reduction program aimed at addressing what Bentley called the “fourth wave” of the opioid epidemic:

the introduction of fentanyl into other non-opiate drugs. By mixing fentanyl into other substances, such as cocaine, suppliers counteract the effects of the drug that users believe they are purchasing, leading buyers to use – and purchase – more.

“This is a really big deal because so many of our overdoses now are not actually opioid users,” Bentley said. “Fentanyl is showing up in almost every substance with the exception of alcohol, and believe me, if they could find a way to put it in alcohol, they would.”

Since 2013, opioids have been the primary cause of fatal drug overdoses in Virginia, according to VDH. Since 2019, fentanyl, acquired either through a prescription or illicitly, has accounted for 59.3% of fatal overdoses statewide.

In line with Bentley’s

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**OVERDOSE**

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assessment, the number of fatal non-opioid drug overdoses has also increased in recent years. From 2018 to 2019, the number of fatal cocaine overdoses increased by 9.4%, and the number of fatal methamphetamine overdoses increased by 55.9% in Virginia, according to VDH.

To tackle this issue, the city is starting to make fentanyl strips accessible to residents who are still actively using drugs so they can test their substance for fentanyl. The strips themselves are simple to use – once they touch a substance they will change color if there is fentanyl present.

“It’s a really unique program in that not many people are doing it and it’s aimed at helping people reduce the harm of ongoing use so that we can keep them alive enough to try to engage them further in the treatment and recovery process,” Bentley said.

Despite these efforts, the city has recently experienced another spike in overdoses. Between Jan. 1 and May 25, there have already been 53 total overdoses – 46 non-fatal and seven fatal. According to Bentley, the city is still trying to determine whether the recent increase is the tail end of pandemic-related behavior or an entirely new trend.

“Nobody’s quite sure if

we’re out of the woods or what’s going on, but the last two months we have seen an increase comparatively to the spring in the past,” Bentley said.

For Hricik, it is still too early to tell whether the city’s new strategies and programs will pay off in the long-term,

but the general philosophy at the city level is one that could make a real difference if implemented well.

“It’s more of a concern of ‘Let’s get these people help’ rather than ‘Let’s put them in jail for what they’ve done,’” Hricik said. “Ultimately, if we can solve the issue, whether

they turned to narcotics because of pain issues or whatever the issue, and get them to where they need to be, then that’s ultimately better for us, it’s better for the jail system, it’s better for the patients and it’s better for the recovery long-term.”

-cmelloklein@alextimes.com



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Real estate tax information is available on the City’s website at alexandriava.gov/RealEstateTax. Under Additional Resources, the Real Estate Tax History and Payments link provides detailed tax balances and payments.

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PHOTO/LOUISE KRAFFT

Longtime friends Fran and Gant Redman greet John and Jeanne Warner at their wedding reception in the Bishop's House at the Cathedral.

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**WARNER**

FROM | 1

was chosen to replace him. Warner served on the Environmental and Public Works Committee and Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and chaired the Senate Rules Committee and Senate Armed Forces Committee. He gained notoriety among conservative colleagues for his sometimes-moderate views.

George Allen, a friend of Warner's who also served in the U.S. Senate, hailed Warner as a man who not only had patience but a deep respect for the Senate process.

"It was his style and his temperament; it's as much his experience as it was his personality [that] he could maneuver to find a solution [when there] were people with different perspectives," Allen said.

Warner was also a fixture in the Alexandria community, having played a significant role in repairing and modernizing the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

Originally opened in 1961, by the 1970s, the bridge was dilapidated and crumbling, but a repair demanded agreement from Alexandria City Council as well as state leaders in Virginia and Maryland



PHOTO/LOUISE KRAFFT

Former U.S. Senator John Warner (left) and honorary gala co-chairs Andre and Claire Viette at the 2011 American Horticulture Society gala at River Farm.

and those in Washington D.C. due to its jurisdiction-spanning location. Warner assisted in creating a repair package with appropriations that was amenable to all parties.

"It [took] really elaborate and multi-jurisdictional diplomatic relations to get the engineering and the bridge approved by all those jurisdictions, and John Warner got that done," Allen said.

Alexandria Republican Frank Fannon, who served as a member of City Council from 2009 to 2012, called Warner a "true statesman" throughout his 30 years of Virginia service.

"He was a true leader who

[sought] to bring people together for the betterment of our country," Fannon said. "America is lacking true leaders today like John Warner, who seek to unite people as opposed to many modern day politicians who are concerned about their own special interests."

Warner voted on an expansive array of topics and at times differed from his fellow Senate Republicans. He supported an assault weapons ban in addition to the Roe v. Wade decision. While Warner was known to occasionally

SEE **WARNER**

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JUNE  
8<sup>TH</sup>

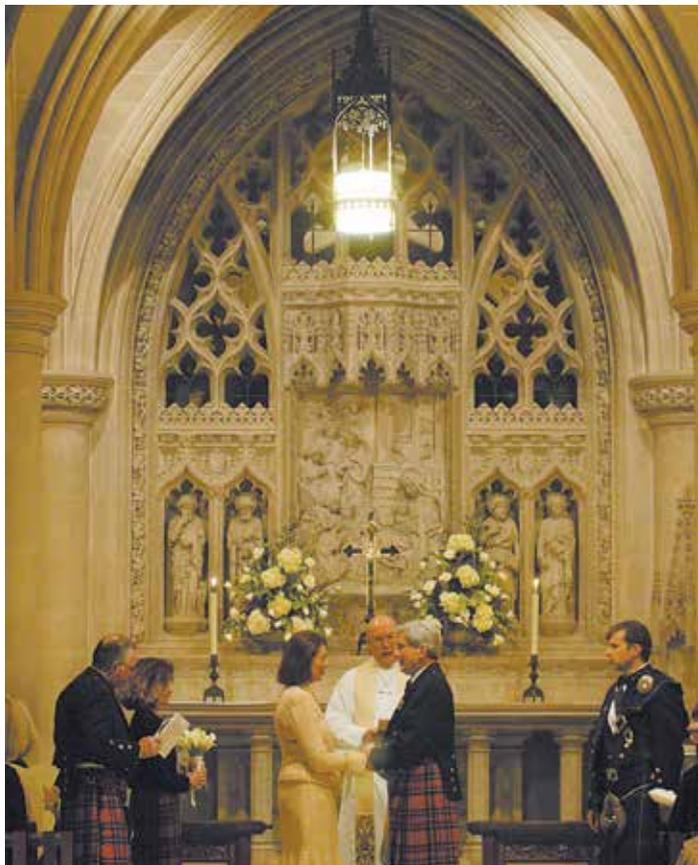
### As your Mayor, I will:

- ★ **Push for Smart Growth** and prevent out-of-scale overbuilding.  
**My opponent** favors overbuilding without full consideration of infrastructure and surrounding neighborhoods.<sup>1</sup>
- ★ **Expedite repairs of infrastructure** to stop sewage and stormwater flooding.  
**My opponent** waited until after the third flood to respond.<sup>2</sup>
- ★ **Protect our limited school properties from housing** and push for academic excellence and fully fund our schools.  
**My opponent** has advocated for putting housing on our school properties and has refused to rule it out.<sup>3</sup>
- ★ **Restore the travel lanes on Seminary Road**, a major arterial road to our only hospital.  
**My opponent** dismissed the concerns of 13 civic associations from across our city and voted to narrow this vital road.<sup>4</sup>
- ★ **Save the forests** of Taylor Run, Strawberry Run, and Lucky Run. Stand with me to protect our environment.  
**My opponent** supports the city's plan to destroy hundreds of trees, justifying this with misleading data.<sup>5</sup>
- ★ **Preserve and create affordable and workforce housing** using public-private initiatives. During my mayoral term, we tripled the dedicated funding for the Affordable Housing Fund.  
**My opponent** voted against this dedicated funding.<sup>6</sup>
- ★ **Advocate for far more transparency, truth, and ethics in our city government.** I do not take contributions from developers or those who bring business before the city.  
**My opponent** has taken contributions from developers for years.<sup>7</sup>

**SOURCES:** 1. Washington Business Journal, 02/17/21; 2. Patch, 09/23/20; 3. Joint City Council/School Board Work Session, 10/23/19; 4. Alexandria Times, 09/19/19; 5. Alexandria Living, 04/08/21; Alexandria Times, 04/29/21; 6. Alexandria Times, 05/11/18; 7. Virginia Public Access Project, accessed 05/21/21.



**Allison will build upon her accomplishments  
and restore the public trust.**



PHOTO/LOUISE KRAFFT

Sen. John Warner marries Jeanne Vander Myde Warner in the Children's Chapel at the Washington National Cathedral on Dec. 15, 2003.

**WARNER**

FROM | 10

drift from party lines with his moderate viewpoints, he supported all three Republican presidents who served during his tenure in office.

Warner's former legislative director and chief of staff Ann Loomis said that all of his decisions were "guided by his conscience" and an enduring passion for his job.

"[He] excelled at bridging divides among his colleagues," Loomis said. "[He] loved the Senate and his staff. He inspired us to be our best and gave us endless opportunities to succeed. We became an extended family because of his kindness and generosity."

Allen recalled a story told by former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell about the Senate's votes, which often ran deep into the night and meant senators had to nap on cots. They would wake up to vote, and then try to fall back

asleep.

According to Allen, one night Mitchell was particularly uncomfortable and unable to sleep.

"Here [Mitchell] is, 2:30 in the morning, wide awake, and then he looked over at [Warner] who's lying on a cot asleep like a baby, completely calm. Mitchell thought, 'This must be his favorite place to be because this guy could be at home with Liz Taylor but here he is sleeping in these cots,'" Allen said with a laugh, referencing Warner's relationship with actress Elizabeth Taylor.

Warner married Taylor in 1976 and the couple divorced in 1982. In 2003, Warner would marry his wife Jeanne Vander Myde, who he remained married to until his death.

Warner's "mastery and respect" for the traditional Senate process made these late night sessions possible, Allen

said, but so did his personality.

"He knew how to work the system, he knew the timing but also the personalities he was dealing with, and because of those relationships and the respect people had for John Warner, there were things he was able to get done that most people would never have the patience to get accomplished. He was just outstanding in that way," Allen said.

Warner's longtime chief of staff Susan Magill said she will remember Warner for his "childlike curiosity" about the world and ability to strike up a conversation with anyone. She noted Warner's love for traveling throughout Virginia and visiting the Old Town Farmers Market, of which he was a long-standing patron.

Magill, who was often in charge of creating Warner's schedules, said she routinely allocated extra calendar

SEE **WARNER**

| 14

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Bill's Plan →



- 1 **Restore integrity, transparency, and accountability** at City Hall, making residents and neighborhoods the central focus of our government once again
- 2 **Promote responsible development and more sensible approaches** to affordable housing, ones that preserve and enhance quality of life across the city, and do not lead to more flooding, traffic congestion, and school overcrowding
- 3 **Accelerate school construction** to meet burgeoning enrollment – without colocation of housing on school campuses
- 4 **Get traffic moving again**, particularly as we all emerge from the pandemic
- 5 **Live up to our Eco-City pledge once and for all**, particularly to save our tree canopy and scarce natural parkland

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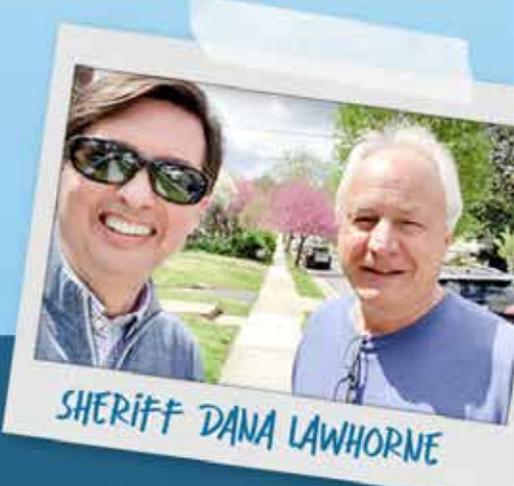


PHOTO BY BILL ROSSELLO FOR CITY COUNCIL

WARNER FROM | 12

time to account for Warner's conversations with residents or spur of the moment excursions.

"I knew to build in a lot of extra time because he was going to talk to people or find just that huge book he wanted at an antique store or decide he was going to escape for an hour or two and fish for trout in some beautiful stream we happened to be passing. You just never knew," Magill said. "He didn't let his official duties get in the way of [his] joy of life; he just kept exploring."

Beyond his political career, Warner assisted in the launch of a government relations program for the non-profit Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Alliance. Warner helped secure \$97 million for TSC research from the Department of Defense's congressionally directed medical research program.



PHOTO/LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE

Sen. John Warner (middle) meets Fitz and Kent Woodrow, descendants of President Woodrow Wilson.

Beginning in the summer of 2001, the TSC Alliance shifted its focus toward congressional advocacy by urging the passage of a resolution in the House of Representatives to raise TSC

awareness.

"When Sen. Warner heard about the efforts in the House, he most graciously volunteered to lead a companion resolution in the Senate ...," the TSC Alliance

said in a statement. "Senator Warner will be remembered for his dedication and compassionate support for TSC research."

An Alexandrian through and through, Warner's favor-

ite city event was the Scottish Christmas Walk, and he made sure to never miss the Historic Alexandria Antique Show when he was in town.

Additionally, the Tall Ship Providence Foundation is developing the Senator John Warner Maritime Heritage Center in Old Town.

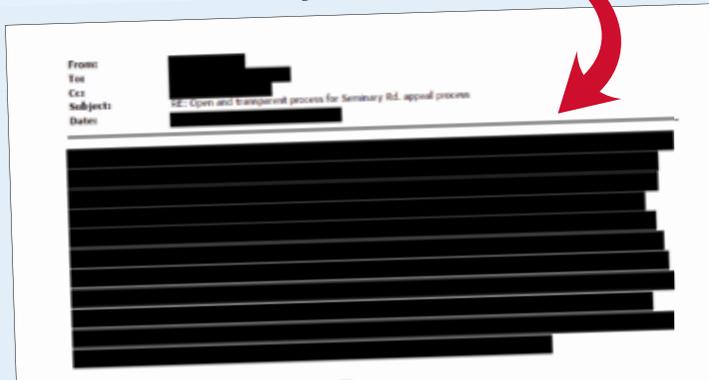
"You can look at all the legislative accomplishments and everything, but he was a very kind person who was interested in everybody," Magill said. "I think you would find, if you talked to his fellow senators or the Capitol Police or the person who ran the line in the cafeteria at the senate, they would tell you that he was known for kindness and interest in their lives."

John William Warner III is survived by his wife, Jeanne Vander Myde Warner, children, Virginia Warner, Mary Conover, and John W. Warner IV, and two grandsons.

-oanderson@alextimes.com

# Is this document related to a National Security issue?

**...NO.** This is what residents received from the City after requesting information about the Seminary Road diet.



**Mayor Justin Wilson** led the initiative to narrow Seminary Road to two lanes in spite of strong community opposition. After concerned residents paid \$5,000 for a public information request about the controversial Council decision, over 80 pages of the document came back blackened and redacted. Alexandria residents deserve better from our local government.

# Changes to Seminary Road affect all Alexandrians by...



- **PUTTING RESIDENTS AT RISK:** Mayor Wilson voted to narrow Seminary Road, a vital, arterial route to our city's only hospital, putting every Alexandria resident at risk and increasing traffic concerns.<sup>1</sup>
- **DISMISSING THE PUBLIC:** Thirteen civic associations from across our city urged Mayor Wilson not to narrow Seminary Road, citing strong concerns about easy access to our hospital and increased traffic congestion, and he disrespectfully responded, "If 99 percent of people wanted me to do something stupid, I wouldn't do it."<sup>2</sup>
- **TWISTING THE FACTS:** Mayor Wilson insisted that Seminary Road was unsafe, when in fact the city's own data demonstrated it was one of the safest roads in our city.<sup>3</sup>

**SOURCES:** 1. The Washington Post, 9/14/19; 2. Alexandria Times, 9/12/19; Alexandria Times, 11/21/19; 3. The City of Alexandria's Vision Zero Action Plan, page 32.



# ALLISON SILBERBERG FOR MAYOR OF ALEXANDRIA.

Paid for and Authorized by Friends of Allison Silberberg.



**COMMITTED TO TRANSPARENCY. COMMITTED TO OUR RESIDENTS AND THE TRUTH.** When rushing to the hospital, seconds matter. Allison fully supports returning Seminary Road to four lanes and keeping safe, pedestrian crossings. As Mayor, she will require a review of city policies regarding redactions to ensure far better public access to information. She will always do what's best for residents, not special interests. **Allison has our back and is the Mayor we can trust!**

FINANCE

# Ensure your business is cybersecure

## Formulate a plan to prepare for a cyberattack

BY BILL HOWARD

It is 7:30 a.m. and your first call of the morning is from your sales manager saying he cannot access your database. Text messages roll in from other department managers who cannot access your systems. Overnight, hackers have encrypted your files and are requesting ransom for the encryption key. Your business is closed.

Who do you call? What steps do you take? Did you have a plan in place prior to today? Is this covered by insurance?

Knowing the answer to these questions can be the difference between an inconvenience and a substantial business interruption and financial loss.

Every day the press reports another cyberattack. What have you done to protect yourself and your business? "It will not happen to me" or "I am too small" is not a plan.

Ransomware attacks are on the rise, and more than half of all cyberattacks are directed at small and midsize companies. Small companies have less sophisticated procedures in place and, as a result, are easy targets and low hanging fruit for cyber criminals.

Hackers are no longer high school kids in their basements. Today the bad actors are sophisticated enterprises engaged in ongoing and ever-increasing criminal activity. In 2020 the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center reported 2,000 claims per day and \$4.2 billion in losses. NetDiligence reports that since 2017 the average ransom demand increased from



**BILL HOWARD**

\$15,000 to \$175,000, and it's only going up.

You need to have a plan before the hack. The following five steps will reduce your risk of attack and increase your chances of recovery.

**Identify your technology assets.** Make an inventory of your hardware, including desktops, laptops, smartphones, tablets and point-of-sale devices, and software, including operating systems. Do you know what you have and if it is current?

**Protect your technology assets.** Know and control who has access to your network. Encrypt sensitive data on your system and during transmission. Perform regular backups and tests to make sure they work. Automate security software updates to make sure you are current, as new threats are identified daily. Establish a formal password policy, including a password manager – there are many good options on the market – and use multifactor authentication everywhere. I know it is a pain, but it will save you a lot more pain in the end.

Educate employees on how to recognize phishing schemes. You may have the best systems, but not educating employees to recognize imposters exposes the human factor as the weakest link.

**Detect.** Monitor systems

to identify unauthorized users and connections to your system. Make sure to receive alerts for unauthorized system access, use of USB drives or software downloads.

**Respond.** Do you have a cyber incident response plan? Who do you call to investigate and contain the attack? Forensic and restoration experts will help get your systems up and running. This plan will outline your legal notification requirements for each state where you do business to law enforcement, to state authorities and to everyone for whom you have personal information.

**Recover.** Purchase a cyber liability policy that addresses forensic investigation, cyber extortion, data recovery, business interruption, communication and public relations.

Most cyber insurance carriers provide extensive educational material and make pre-breach services available to their policy holders.

The pandemic has further complicated the situation. More employees are working from home on personal computers shared by other family members on unsecured home networks. Who has access? Are software updates current? Do you have malware protection? Is password management in place? Do you use a virtual private network, or VPN?

It is a lot to think about, but it all starts with a plan.

*The writer is the managing partner at Clarke & Sampson Insurance, a certified insurance counselor and certified advisor of personal insurance from Wharton. He received a Cyber COPE Insurance Certification from Carnegie Mellon University.*



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# ALX KIDS

## Time to inspire social change



FILE PHOTO

Get your classmates interested in social change by finding something they can directly relate to.

BY ANIYA WITHERSPOON

There are so many things I am passionate about that I could probably spend the entirety of this article discussing, so I focused on what I absolutely love discussing: social change.

I am passionate about issues that face my generation. I love writing about these issues because when I write I feel resilient and powerful. Some of the issues I'm passionate about are: teen depression and suicide, Black Lives Matter, police brutality, child abuse and neglect, among others.

I love to inform people about social change so that they can reflect and make a difference. After seeing so many issues on the news, it ignited a fire in me to help. There have been many times where I've informed people about the social issues around them.

For example, through my writing I tell my classmates and teachers at school, about things that are happening that they can relate to. I do this because it's easy to hear something that doesn't connect to you and look past it.

My class is filled with 13- and 14-year-olds. When we hear about something

that happened in Ohio to a 47-year-old, that doesn't really move them like something that happened to a 13-year-old living in Virginia. Being able to connect with someone is essential to inspire an interest in social change.

Teens will tend to go and tell other teens, continuing the cycle of distributing information. Signing petitions is the easiest way to inform the powers that be that change is wanted. All you have to do is type your name and you've made such a big difference.

I want to motivate people to help with different movements, whether it's signing petitions or just writing about it in school. There are so many people around me who are dealing with their own challenges, who are being overlooked, and we should try any way to help them if possible.

One social issue in Alexandria is the lack of support for small businesses during this pandemic. Alexandria is full of entrepreneurs with extraordinary ideas and when they put those ideas to work, we overlook them. Some ways we can change that are by supporting local businesses, including Black-



**ANIYA WITHERSPOON**

owned businesses such as Threadleaf, Cameron Cafe, Haute Dogs & Fries, Hazel O. Salon and many more.

Now that you know a handful of businesses, go support them. If you can't support right now, tell a friend. We are too blessed to live in such a wonderful place with such amazing businesses to let it all go to waste. Show the beautiful city of Alexandria some love and support our local businesses.

I know during COVID-19 money isn't always available, so keep a look out for Black Friday and Small Business Saturday deals. Let's stop this social issue, support our show-stopping small businesses and have fun at the same time.

*The writer is an eighth grader at Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 IB School.*

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# What to look forward to during this 'new normal' summer

**Restrictions are easing, and there are plenty of things to celebrate this summer**

BY REAGAN LOWRANCE

With COVID-19 vaccinations in full swing and businesses opening back up, my friends and I are looking at what our summers will be like in the "new normal." We keep asking ourselves, "What can we expect from the 'new normal?' What should we plan for this summer?"

Luckily, there are many more options this summer!

For me, summer officially starts over Memorial Day weekend, which is also my birthday weekend. This year, unlike last year, my 13th birthday will be a celebration with my friends. I can bring cupcakes to horseback and lacrosse practice where we can gather around and enjoy them together. No more quick exits or social distancing with masks. I can be with my friends and enjoy my birthday as we walk around



**REAGAN LOWRANCE**

Old Town and have dinner at my favorite restaurant, Chart House.

By the time school ends

SEE **SUMMER**

| 18

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## WORD SEARCH

### TIME FOR SUMMER

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 S U I S Y P Z V A C A T I O N  
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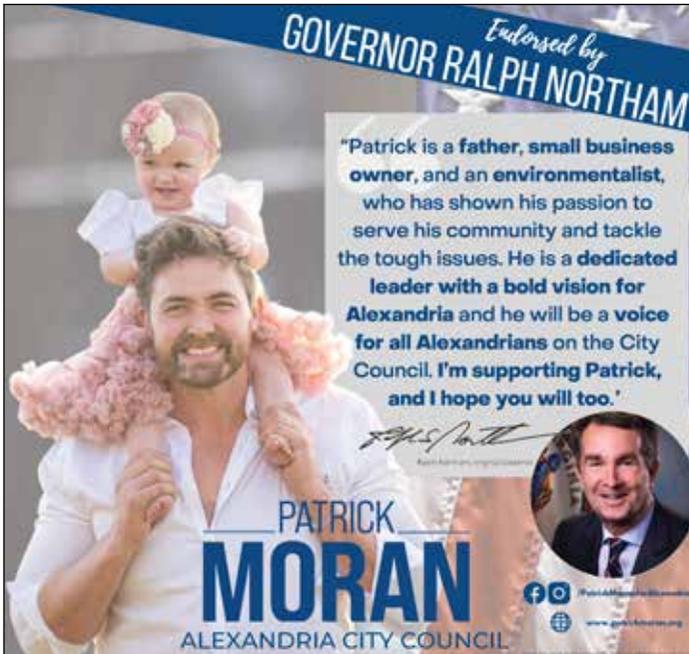
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# ALX KIDS

**SUMMER**

FROM | 17

and summer vacation begins, we will be able to do so much more than we did last summer. My to-do list grows every day as I look to do not only my favorite things but new things. On the top of my to-do list is trying the new waterfront restaurant Barca. I cannot wait to sit on the water and have lunch with my family. Next, I am excited to go back to the movies, especially on a really hot and humid day when I can escape and watch “Cruella” or maybe “Black Widow.”

Sleep-away camp is also an option again this summer. Two summers ago, I started going away from home with either friends or teammates to various camps. Last summer everything was cancelled, but not this summer. It is exciting to think we will not only be able to go away to camps, but we will get to

spend the night away again.

Traveling is probably on everyone’s list of summer plans. Seeing friends and family in other states, getting on a plane or visiting a new place are all very exciting. I also get to go away for lacrosse tournaments, as they are back to being full weekends, where I get to be with my STARS team all weekend, stay in the same hotels, and hang out between games.

With travel restrictions lifting, families like mine will finally be able to visit one another again. This summer, my grandparents will travel from Texas to visit us, and we plan to go to Ocean City, Maryland at least two times this summer to enjoy the beach for vacation.

Then there is the Fourth of July, a time when we can go to our pool with all of our friends and watch fireworks together. Instead of worrying about scheduling a two-hour

block at the pool, people can once again go anytime to the pool without having to worry about staying in our family pod or taking turns getting into the water.

This summer is also an opportunity to try new things. My “new” thing to do this summer will be art classes. The pandemic gave me lots of time to practice drawing, and I fell in love with it. My parents signed me up for art classes in person. No more tutorials or virtual classes for me. I am happy to be in a classroom learning in-person.

Fully open restaurants, pools, movie theaters, camps, traveling and time with friends and family: These are things I am looking forward to in the “new normal” this summer, and I hope you are too!

*The writer is a rising eighth grader at The Basilica School of St. Mary.*

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# Times Living

## PETS

# Dog days of summer

**Make sure to avoid heat-related dangers for your pup when having fun under the sun**

BY KIM GILLIAM

As the weather warms up, us dog owners are excited to explore the great outdoors with our four-legged best friend by our side. But before getting too excited about beach trips, patio hangouts and camping adventures, you'll want to make sure you are fully prepared. Let's think through how to keep your pooch safe from the heat and what products you might want to have on-hand to ensure they are hydrated, happy and healthy.

When our pets play outside, they don't always know they are overheating. It's important to recognize the warning signs of exercise-induced, heat-related illness. While human bodies can sweat efficiently to cool off, dogs don't have that ability. The main way they cool down is to pant – moving air in and out of their bodies.

The most telling symptom of heatstroke in dogs is excessive panting. Other symptoms may include signs of discomfort such as drooling, reddened gums, vomiting, diarrhea, mental dullness or loss of consciousness, uncoordinated movement and collapse.

Heatstroke in dogs can indicate a serious medical problem and can cause un-



FILE PHOTO

Consider purchasing sunscreen, baseball caps or portable water bottles to help dogs more safely enjoy the summer.

seen problems, such as swelling of the brain, kidney failure, intestinal bleeding and abnormal clotting of blood. For this reason, immediate veterinary care is highly recommended.

If you think your dog has heat stroke, remove the dog from the hot environment immediately and call your veterinarian or the nearest emergency animal hospital to tell them you are on your

way. Travel with the windows open and the air conditioner on.

Do not give your dog aspirin to lower its temperature, as that can lead to other problems, but do let your dog drink as much cool water as they want without forcing them to drink. You can also cool your dog off with cold water by placing a soaked towel on their back.

Some dogs are more prone

to heat stroke than others. Dogs with thick fur, short noses or those suffering from some medical conditions are predisposed to heatstroke, but even dogs who enjoy constant exercise and playtime should be closely monitored. Remember that on sunny days, roads and trails can absorb the heat and be much hotter than the air temperature. On hot or humid days, it may just be best to stay in-



**KIM GILLIAM**

side or find shade, limiting your pet's activity.

As always, it's best to be prepared. Consider making a few key purchases to help your dog safely enjoy the summer:

- Dog sunscreen: The American Kennel Club advis-

# HOMES

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FILEPHOTO

One way to combat food waste is by using leftover ingredients to prepare meals that can be stretched across multiple days.

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## Going green

**Five tips to create a  
more eco-friendly home**

BY BRANDPOINT

With sustainable practices top of mind and a shift toward conscious consumption, Americans everywhere are seeking ways to lead a more sustainable, eco-friendly lifestyle.

What does it mean to go green? 2021 Energy Star Partner of the Year, Bosch Home Appliances, defines this as the commitment to empowering consumers with more environmentally friendly and ecologically responsible products. Leading an eco-friendly lifestyle starts within the home. What products and appliances are you utilizing in key home spaces to achieve a low carbon footprint and lower energy bills?

From saving water to re-

ducing energy usage, these are the top five ways to go green for the environment and your wallet.

### Reduce your energy usage

By using less energy, you can reduce your carbon footprint and save on your household bills. If you're purchasing a new large household appliance, look for the Energy Star label to find the most efficient appliances. For example, Bosch's compact laundry machine pairs feature dryers with heat pump drying technology, a ventless, sustainable drying solution.

For further energy savings, some refrigerators have high-efficiency compressors to generate less heat when they are running for a lower energy output, as well as an eco mode that automatically

adjusts the appliance's temperatures to run in an energy-saving setting. A simple eco-conscious practice is letting your leftovers cool post-mealtime before storing them in the refrigerator, avoiding the increased energy it takes for the refrigerator to cool down its interior.

### Shop smart

You can reduce your carbon footprint when you buy locally sourced fruits and vegetables in season, which don't need to be transported for long distances. Shop at your local farmers market, and don't be afraid to ask questions like "Where is this produce from?" and "When was it picked?" Pro tip: Fruits like cantaloupe, apricots, raspberries, honeydew and white cherries are in season

SEE **ECO-FRIENDLY**

# HOMES

## ECO-FRIENDLY FROM | 20

for spring.

Bring your own reusable grocery totes to avoid the plastic bags provided at the store. Consider using a cotton or other reusable produce bag as well when picking fruits and vegetables, further cutting down on plastic waste.

### Limit food waste

To best limit food waste, focus on appliances that keep your food fresher for longer and organize your refrigerator to keep items in view. The latest refrigerators on the market can do much more than just cool food – look for one with innovative technologies that help limit food waste, such as Bosch's French door bottom mount refrigerators that feature a

four-point FarmFresh System with pre-programmed freshness settings and odor control.

Another way to combat food waste is saving leftover ingredients for meals you can prep ahead and stretch across multiple days. Consider making a leftover vegetable soup using veggies you have remaining from other prepared dishes throughout the week. You'll make a tasty dinner, reduce food waste and save money when buying produce all in one fell swoop.

### Use eco-friendly cleaning products

Some household cleaning products contain chemicals that can be harmful to the environment. Make your own all-purpose cleaner with natural ingredients for

**“Many Americans also have a preconceived notion of needing to fully wash their dishes before loading the dishwasher, but the truth is you simply need to scrape off leftover food and let the machine do its job.”**

an eco-friendly approach to spring cleaning. For example, let orange peels sit in a jar with white vinegar for seven to 10 days, drain the liquid into a spray bottle and you're left with a great smelling, home-made, all-purpose cleaner.

### Be water wise

There is a widespread myth that dishwashers use

more water than handwashing, when in fact, far less water is consumed when you run a dishwasher designed with water efficiency. On average, handwashing uses about 27 gallons per load compared to the dishwasher which uses around three. A recent study found that 94% of consumers hand-wash glassware, plastics and more, when these

items can be washed in the dishwasher. Many Americans also have a preconceived notion of needing to fully wash their dishes before loading the dishwasher, but the truth is you simply need to scrape off leftover food and let the machine do its job.

Saving water outside the kitchen is just as important. Choose a laundry pair with a washer designed to reduce water consumption. Many washers on the market have connected features that offer consumption forecasts for each laundry program so you can stay on top of your usage. A good rule of thumb when doing laundry is “less is more” – avoid adding too much detergent to the washer, as the machine will take longer to rinse and will use more water.

## HOME OF THE WEEK

# History meets modern flair in Old Town



PHOTOS/ SEAN SHANAHAN

**Left:** Built between 1790 and 1850, this historic Old Town home combines historic charm with modern living.

**Middle:** The second level features four bedrooms and three updated baths.

**Right:** The wrap-around patio includes a fountain and gated entry.

Built in stages between 1790 and 1850, the original structure expanded to 3,400 square feet on two levels and ever since this classic home has been curated with respect for the past and for

current living standards.

Grandeur prevails with the foyer gallery, regal staircase, tall ceilings, six fireplaces, double parlor with pocket doors and original cylinder glass windows. The

gathering room/kitchen was added in 2002, and, in doing so, a cistern was discovered, which is a delight for fans of history.

There are four bedrooms and three updated baths on

the second level and below grade there is 1,000 square feet of storage and a second laundry.

The large wrap-around brick patio with fountains allows for a private retreat.

### AT A GLANCE

**Address:** 909 Cameron St.

**Neighborhood:** Old Town

**Price:** \$1,995,000

**Bedrooms:** 4

**Bathrooms:** 3 full, 1 half

**Year built:** 1790

**Contact:** Janet Caterson

Price, McEneaney

Associates Realtors, Old

Town, 703-622-5984,

janet@janetpricehomes.

com, janetpricehomes.com

Mixing modern and historic touches, this home is located one block from King Street and in view of historic Christ Church.

## HOMES ADVERTORIAL



Does your home's exterior need some post-winter TLC?  
Want to get on our schedule? Call us today for a **FREE** estimate.  
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## Roberta is Ready

Quiet Roberta would love a forever home (feline friends are ok!) where she can blossom into the perfect forever friend.

Due to COVID-19 we are only doing adoptions by appointment. For more information contact King Street Cats: [contact@kingstreetcats.org](mailto:contact@kingstreetcats.org). Visit us at [www.kingstreetcats.org](http://www.kingstreetcats.org)



703-231-7199  
25 S. Dove Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization  
Federal ID# 33-0967

## Kingstowne Cat Clinic

5830 Kingstowne Center Dr.  
Suite 120, Alexandria, VA 22315  
(703) 922-8228 (9-CAT-CAT)  
[www.kingstownecatclinic.com](http://www.kingstownecatclinic.com)

meow@tailshigh.org  
703-819-5240

President Truman said  
"If you want a friend  
in Washington, get a dog."  
He meant "get a cat!"

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## SUMMER

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es that human sunscreen can be toxic for dogs if ingested, so it's best to use a sunblock specially formulated for their skin, especially for hairless breeds, those with light colored fur or pink noses.

- Swimming pool/splash pad: Make the back yard, deck, or even balcony an oasis for your dog with a foldable pool or splash pad that can be stored when not in use.

- Doggie baseball cap: This cap is as ridiculously cute as it is effective in keeping the sun out of your dog's eyes and providing sun protection.

# PETS

- Elevated cooling bed/canopy: A raised mesh bed and/or canopy can ensure your pup has a cool place to lay, no matter what outdoor adventures you take.

- Portable dog water bottle: A water container and bowl in one, this is a must have for dogs on the go; make sure your dog stays hydrated.

- Water additives: Dogs need one to three ounces of water per pound of body weight each day. If they don't drink enough on their own, add this tasty treat to the water bowl to make it more appealing.

- Freezable dog bowl: Pull

these out of the freezer to keep water cool for up to eight hours. It's a refreshing treat for your pup on a warm day.

- Cooling gel pet mat: Made from body temperature-regulating, non-toxic gel, place one in a crate or on the floor to help your dog cool off on hot days.

Understanding the hazards of summer and preparing accordingly will make the time more enjoyable for you and your canine companion.

*The writer co-owns Frolick Dogs, an indoor dog gym in Alexandria, with her husband, Kevin Gilliam.*

# CALENDAR

## JUNE 3

**CARLYLE HOUSE'S CHOCOLATE TASTING** Founded in 2010, Pottomac Chocolate was the first bean to bar chocolate maker in the Washington D.C. area. Join Ben Rasmussen, via Zoom in testing some of his delicious chocolates and learning more about the chocolate making business. Participants will try some of his new chocolates and visit some familiar flavors too. Chocolate sample bags can be picked up at Carlyle House the day of the program. Missing the wine portion of our program? Carlyle House is partnering with Sonoma Cellars for a special deal. Participants can order wine samples to go along with their chocolate at a special rate and pick it up at Carlyle House when they pick up their chocolates.

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

**Location:** Virtual, pick up supplies at 121 N. Fairfax St.

**Information:** <https://bit.ly/3odmSwM>

## JUNE 4

**TASTE OF DEL RAY** Top area restaurants are slated to participate in the 12th Annual Taste of Del Ray, which will shift to a take-out format from June 4 to June 6. Throughout the weekend, each participating restaurant will offer participants up to three select "tastes" for just \$5 each. Restaurants are also encouraged to offer cocktail pairings to complement their dishes. Online registration is just \$5 and includes the exclusive menu of available tastes and specialty cocktails, plus a ballot for the People's Choice Award.

**Time:** All day

**Location:** Various locations

**Information:** <https://drba.wildapricot.org/>

## THE NAKED AND THE NEWT

## ART EXHIBIT AT DEL RAY ARTISANS

"The Naked and the Newt: Studies in Human and Herpeton Anatomy" art exhibit explores human and animal bodies, investigating conceptions of anatomy, texture and conservation with partner organization, the Virginia Herpetological Society. Special workshops taught by local artists and free talks by VHS are offered in conjunction with the theme. The exhibit runs June 4 to 26.

**Time:** Thursday and Friday, noon to 6 p.m., Sunday noon to 4 p.m.

**Location:** 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave.

**Information:** [www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

## D-DAY'S BLACK HEROES LECTURE

Linda Hervieux, Paris-based American journalist, photographer and author of "Forgotten: The Untold Story of D-Day's Black Heroes, at Home and at War," the critically acclaimed story of D-Day's only African-American combat soldiers, educates the community about the soldiers who were effectively written out of the history of the Normandy invasion.

**Time:** Noon

**Location:** Virtual

**Information:** <https://bit.ly/2T9KHDr>

## JUNE 5

### DRAG QUEEN STORYTIME

This event is cosponsored by the Alexandria LGBTQ+ Taskforce as part of Celebrate Alexandria Pride 2021. What do drag queens and children have in common? They love dressing up and all things sparkly and fancy. Drag Queen Story Hour is just what it sounds like — drag queens reading stories to children in libraries, schools and bookstores. Enjoy songs and stories for kids ages 3 to 8.

**Time:** 10 a.m.

**Location:** Virtual

**Information:** <http://alexlibraryva.org/event/5124467>

## JUNE 19

### CARLYLE HOUSE JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Carlyle House is hosting its inaugural Juneteenth celebration, and the event is being presented in collaboration with The Athenaeum. Discover the history of Juneteenth through live music, hands-on activities, art, history and poetry readings. Activities are part of the planned offerings for the day that marks the liberation of Black Americans on June 19, 1865. The museum is thrilled to host three magnificent poets, Jamal Rashad, Simply Sherri and Mysfit, along with live music by the talented cellist Benjamin Gates. The Athenaeum is also offering an African themed hands-on activity for all ages, and participants will have the opportunity to learn about the history of the enslaved individuals owned by John Carlyle and his descendants.

**Time:** Noon to 5 p.m.

**Location:** Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St.

**Information:** <https://www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park/events/juneteenth-celebration>

### MOUNT VERNON CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

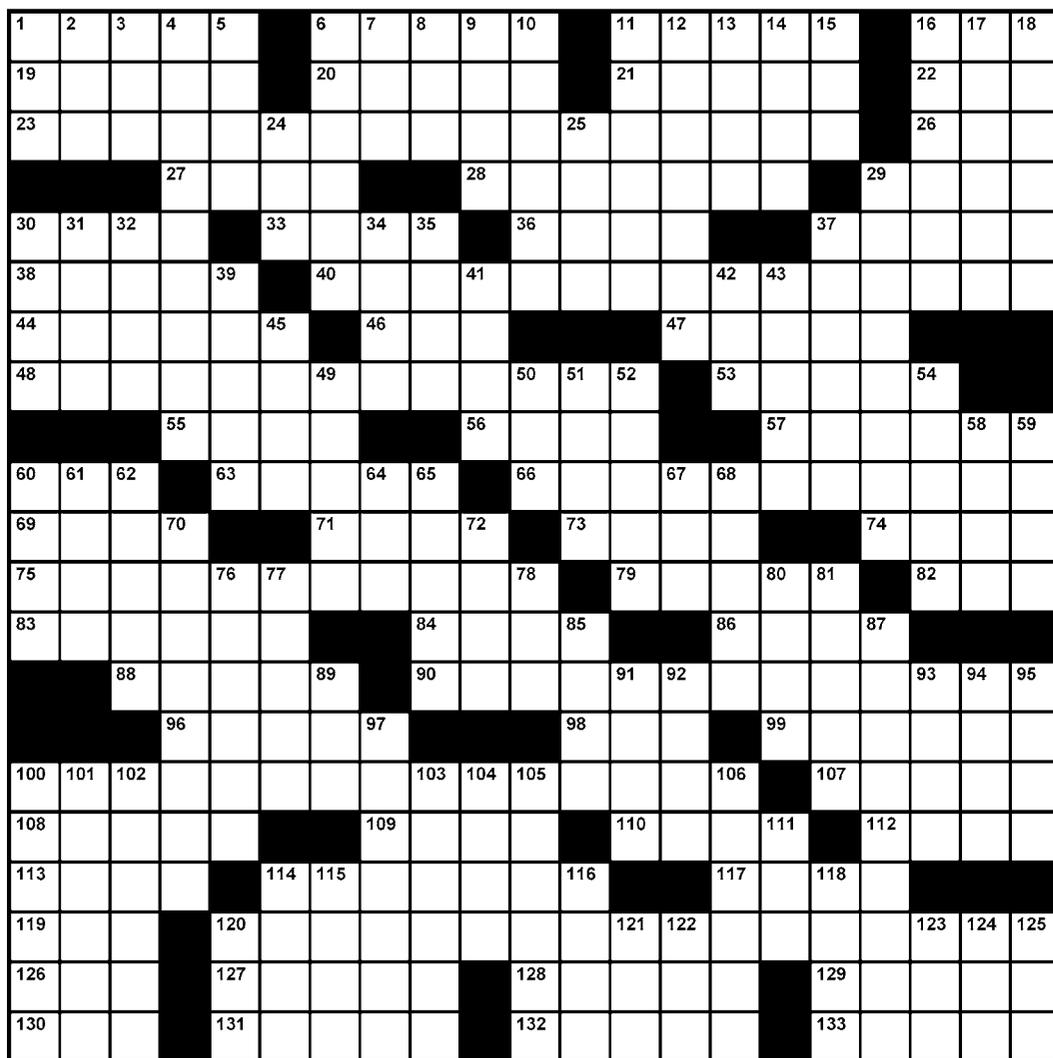
Experience Mount Vernon after-hours and taste beers from across the region. Sample craft beer from local breweries, hear live music and explore the historic area. The mansion will be closed during this event. Safety measures will be in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

**Time:** 6 to 9 p.m.

**Location:** 3200 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway

**Information:** <https://bit.ly/3wkafmc>

# Weekly Words



## COMBINATION by Rebecca Goldstein, edited by David Steinberg

### ACROSS

1. Crunchy
6. The Sun deck?
11. Birth \_\_\_\_ (passageway for a baby)
16. Lead-in to "the season"
19. Singer Paula
20. Essential acid type
21. "Becoming" author Michelle
22. Early programmer Lovelace
23. Incentive for SpaceX sales reps?
26. Shelter such as a sukkah
27. What's under a hat
28. Allocate, as funds
29. Woodsy scent
30. Not in favor of
33. Some canvas shoes
36. Hard work
37. Good, in Nice
38. V-sign's meaning
40. Much ado about legislation?
44. "\_\_\_\_ Black" (2010s sci-fi show)
46. AOC, for one
47. Palace guards?
48. Person who pretends to be on Bach's level?
53. Prefix meaning "straight"
55. Plant with high-fiber seeds
56. Romantic outing
57. News anchor Anderson
60. Supportive undergarment

63. Heist targets
66. Quarterback's directional sense?
69. An ellipse has two
71. High, in Honduras
73. "New Rules" singer Dua \_\_\_\_
74. Serb or Croat
75. Luxurious military base?
79. Grannies
82. "How you doin'?"
83. \_\_\_\_ Urquelle ("Family Matters" alter ego)
84. Fabled man-eater
86. Group of fields that includes CS
88. It can be dressed and tossed
90. Animal shelter disinfectant?
96. Static issue
98. Bespectacled dwarf
99. One may smoke a joint
100. Die-hard environmentalist, when cleaning up after a protest?
107. Crunchyroll cartoon genre
108. Detest
109. Drag show accessories
110. Garden in Genesis
112. Put in the overhead bin
113. Heckle
114. Island country named after a woman
117. Spill the tea
119. Yes vote
120. One who's kvetching in more

- simple terms?
126. \_\_\_\_ Gala, event where Lena Waithe wore a pride cape
127. "Oh, no you \_\_\_\_!"
128. Not mainstream
129. Garden guardian
130. Some are targeted
131. Stockpile
132. Accord or Accent
133. Face moisturizer

### DOWN

1. Video taker, informally
2. Slugger's stat
3. They may be flashed at a bartender
4. Figure at a restaurant with a conveyer belt
5. Ballet bend
6. Bike for two
7. Theater chain
8. Where Simone Biles won four golds
9. "My treat"
10. BLT ingredient
11. Universe-related
12. King David's rebellious son
13. Solution for a hairy situation?
14. Wild way to run
15. PC connection
16. Sauce with falafel
17. "No clue"
18. Glossy fabric

# DEATH NOTICES

**MICHAEL JOHN BURRAGE** (50), of Alexandria, May 26, 2021

**LILA RITA CHANG** (97), of Alexandria, May 19, 2021

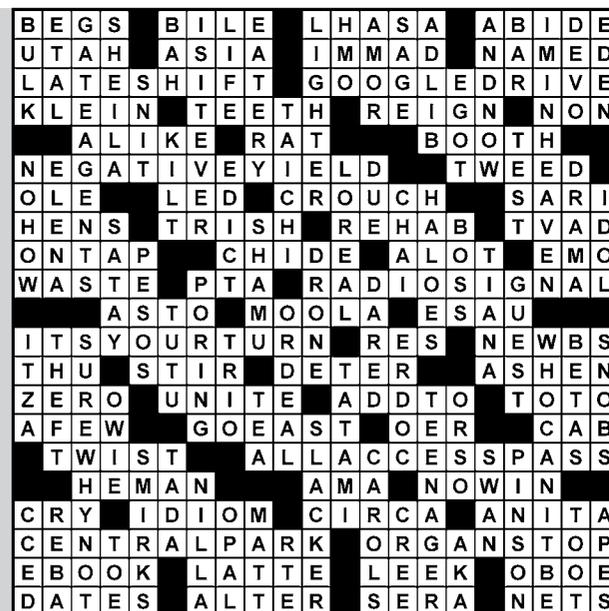
**RICHARD HOBSON** (89), of Alexandria, May 23, 2021

**BARBARA LINTHICUM** (80), formerly of Alexandria, May 16, 2021

**CHARLES MITCHELL** (87), of Alexandria, May 23, 2021

**REBECCA ROY** (42), of Alexandria, May 24, 2021

## Solutions from last week



24. Winemaking wood
25. Metal whose symbol is Fe
29. Stores with edible arrangements?
30. Each
31. Hated Roman emperor
32. Brewpub fixtures
34. Quad complex
35. Procedure part
37. Top's opposite
39. Countesses' counterparts
41. Device with a click wheel, once
42. Calf's cry
43. Shout before "Polo!"
45. March Madness org.
49. British-based relief org.
50. Tree fluid
51. And others (Abbr.)
52. Substance like shellac
54. Many Libras' birthstones
58. Jacob's twin
59. Evite request
60. Closest pals, informally
61. Edible part of a beet
62. Land measures
64. Mall Santa's sidekick
65. Brownstone's porch
67. Place for a peel or scrub
68. Defiant retort
70. That special something
72. Best Picture winner set in Iran
76. "Longtime listener, first-time \_\_\_\_"
77. Broadcasting
78. Capote's nickname
80. \$\$\$ sources at bodegas
81. Nasal walls
85. People try to make them meet
87. Secret sauce?
89. Org. chaired by Jaime Harrison
91. Lavish affection (on)
92. Added to an email chain
93. Volt, e.g.
94. Cartoon clown fish
95. Doodled
97. Grotesque monsters
100. Word before "party" or "pants"
101. Sat or stayed, say
102. Basic bedding
103. Hangs on the wall
104. Walking speed
105. Egyptian underworld god
106. Paper marker
111. Nada
114. \_\_\_\_ pickings
115. "And here it is!"
116. Oily skin concern
118. Succumbs to gravity
120. Outdoor kiss, e.g., briefly
121. Not even
122. Soccer icon Hamm
123. Neither's partner
124. Tall bird
125. "Losing My Religion" band

## Our View

### Those who can do, teach

June is here and with it comes the end of the first full pandemic-era school year.

Like seemingly everything during the pandemic, the 2020-2021 school year was a high stress, challenging time for parents, students and teachers alike. Alexandria City Public Schools transitioned to in-person education at a pace that was too slow for some and too fast for others. It has been a contentious school year, to say the least, and with ACPS remaining virtual for most students this summer, parents have already raised some concerns.

Of course, ACPS' decision to remain virtual for the majority of students this summer is predicated on limited staffing, the end result of a year that has pushed our teachers to their limits. The school district cannot require teachers to take part in summer learning, since the summer months fall outside of teachers' contract time. ACPS can only provide incentives, such as the \$500 bi-weekly bonus it's currently offering licensed teachers and instructional support staff.

So, for parents that believed ACPS would return to four day per week in-person summer learning, we understand your disappointment. At the same time, we understand why teachers would not necessarily want to return to school this summer after such an intense year.

The 2020-2021 school year is a reminder of how invaluable our teachers have been not only during the pandemic but before it as well.

Alexandria teachers have shown their creativity, resolve and seemingly endless passion for students at a time when all three of those qualities have been tested.

Parents have been right to point out the challenges involved with virtual education – the learning loss, constant distractions and difficulty ensuring students are engaged. Those challenges are clear and abundant, but our teachers, in both ACPS and local private schools, have worked tirelessly to find ingenious solutions.

Most of us are familiar with the saying “Those who can't do, teach,” but those words could not be less accurate.

By all accounts, teachers have put in more time and invested more energy this year. Teaching is a challenging profession at the best of times. But in the last year, teachers have been forced to adapt all their tools and tricks online in an attempt to meet the needs of students who have diverse learning needs and who are in vastly different home environments.

When their students had to turn to full-time work to support their families during the pandemic, teachers at T.C. Williams High School helped create a night school program for students who are learning English. At George Mason Elementary School, music teacher Heather Rosner, who appeared on the Times' podcast Speak Easy, recruited the siblings of her current students to assist with setting up instruments and practicing music.

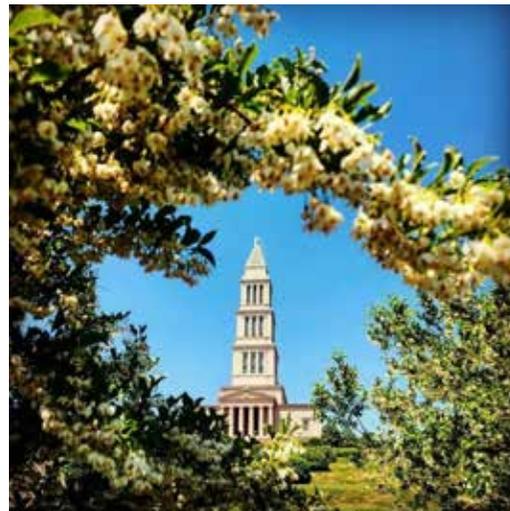
Meanwhile, at Matthew Maury Elementary School, teachers turned a local hot button issue – the renaming of both Matthew Maury and T.C. Williams – into a history lesson. Teachers and administrators crafted a lesson on the history of Maury, a Confederate naval officer, and why the school's name was now being reconsidered.

# Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson

## Photo of the Week



PHOTO/DAWN BRYANT

The George Washington National Memorial.

## Your Views

# Are we a city that tolerates bullying of residents?

*To the editor:*

Most people know me as Mike or Michael Curry. However, that is not my real name. I started using Michael during the 1970s because I didn't want anyone to know that I was gay. A lot of the LGBTQ community made up a false identity out of fear of abandonment by family and friends, losing their job or being attacked or killed.

Unfortunately, some LGBTQ people's struggle was so great that they saw suicide as their only option. I tell you this story because living in fear made me lie about who I was. Once I came out as gay, I realized that my lying hurt the people I love far more than telling the truth. At that point, I made myself a promise that I would never again hurt others by telling a lie. I share the above information only as background to explain my anger about the below comments.

Yon Lambert, Director of Transportation & Environmental Services, in an e-mail to Mayor Justin Wilson called me a liar and stated that he hoped his email would get discovered in a Freedom of Information

Act request. Even more astonishing is that Wilson not only didn't condemn Lambert's comment, but he also agreed with him in his reply.

A FOIA request by citizens made the emails public. Since that time, Wilson has not mentioned it publicly or attempted to contact me regarding this issue or offer an apology. City Manager Mark Jinks should have at least publicly condemned Lambert's comment as unprofessional.

Given the number of redactions within the FOIA documents, I can only imagine what horrible things were said about me and other residents of Alexandria. I believe Lambert's comments, and Wilson's follow-up, shows that a culture of bullying exists within the city and T&ES as well as a total lack of respect for the residents of Alexandria. I am still waiting for an apology from Lambert, Jinks and Wilson.

This is not the leadership Alexandria residents deserve. It's time for a change.

-Michael Curry,  
Alexandria

# Wilson's refusal to answer says it all

To the editor:

The May 20 Alexandria Times Voter Guide is enormously helpful. In many ways, a candidate's refusal to answer questions is most informative. The lesson from this year – as well as the 2018 campaign – is that some candidates will not say what they actually plan to do if they can avoid it.

Mayor Justin Wilson answered only four of 10 straightforward, specific questions for the 2021 Voter Guide; Kirk McPike answered only one question; while Canek Aguirre and Sarah Bagley ignored that section entirely.

Hiding positions from voters is ominous, as we have seen over the last three years. When exactly did citizens vote in favor of the abandonment of Alexandria as it is, in favor of mass density, co-location of housing on top of schools, road diets and deferred repair of localized flooding in favor of stream "restorations?" The answer is, of course, never.

In fact, upon taking office as mayor in January 2019, Wilson declared:

"I'm not rolling out a new flashy initiative or anything like that."

So, what did he actually campaign on?

In 2018, Wilson emphasized "building coalitions." Well, he sure changed that approach. He built a record on 4-3 votes, relentlessly pushing controversial and divisive issues on the public.

What did he say about development? Developers have never been more unchecked. Braddock West was the only major development council said "no" to. Three weeks later, they used sketchy pro-

cedural devices to overturn themselves.

What about affordable housing? In 2018, Wilson discussed affordable housing in the context of using vacant commercial space. He said nothing about ravaging neighborhoods to make way for bloc housing, or about assuming no more schoolchildren, no more traffic and no more infrastructure in the surrounding community. Co-location of a housing sarcophagus on top of schools was never raised.

What about the environment? Carnivorous development of open space, deforesting what's left of our tree canopy? Stream "restorations" that result in the loss of hundreds of trees? Worsening street flooding? Those topics were not discussed.

Accessory dwelling units never came up. "Upzoning" never came up. Mass density never came up. Slaughterhouses never came up. Defunding the police's school resource officers never came up.

In 2021, Wilson declined to answer whether he valued resident input. In fairness, he has made clear what value he places on resident input: none.

As we approach the June 8 Democratic primary, voters are encouraged to review the Times' Voter Guide carefully, taking special note of what Wilson and other candidates declined to answer. There is a reason that candidates do not want you to know what they plan to do. This should tell voters everything they need to know.

-Frank Putzu,  
Alexandria

# Alexandria's COVID-19 Memorial

To the editor:

Almost 600,000 Americans have lost their lives to COVID-19. That's almost too many to absorb: Almost 600,000 people who were living normal lives a year ago and are no longer with us.

We in Alexandria have lost 137 of our own to this terrible virus. While a much smaller number, it still hits home. This is us, our fellow Alexandrians, people we knew, loved, worked with, played with, saw every day as we got our morning coffee.

They are gone but not forgotten. A citizen-led group has created a tem-

porary memorial to remember and honor our own. Titled "Alexandria Remembrance. With love, we remember our friends and neighbors lost to COVID-19," it is a display of 137 white flags in Rivergate Park at the base of Madison Street on the waterfront in Old Town North. There is one flag for each victim of the virus. Flags will be added and the signage updated if additional residents succumb to the disease.

Thanks to the city, North Old Town Independent Citizens Organization and

SEE **MEMORIAL**

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## The Business Plan

with Bill Reagan

# Finally – the joys of summer

After the last year and a half of the pandemic, many of us are ready to get out and experience the fresh air, warm weather and human interaction.

Easing of pandemic restrictions coincides with the start of summer, and it's a sensory overload. We've yearned for this and now we have the chance to get out and perhaps even go maskless here and there.

Alexandrians are blessed with an abundance of ways to celebrate the summer season.

First, we can simply stroll our beautiful and historic neighborhoods. Our neighbors have groomed their flowerbeds, window boxes or pots on their sidewalks and hung door wreaths. It's not just the beauty – it's experiencing history where it happened.

We locals can also gain fresh perspectives from Black history and ghost tours that are educational even if you're not a tourist.

Old Town now has an incredible chain of waterfront parks and public gathering spaces connected by public walkways. You can stroll, picnic, dine or bike alongside the Potomac River from Jones Point to Daingerfield Island. If you haven't yet experienced it, take in the view of the Alexandria waterfront and the Capitol in the distance from the pier near Barca, a recent riverfront addition to the city's restaurant scene.

Baseball will also soon open to full capacity, and there's no easier, more scenic or safer way to get to and from Nats Park than the Potomac Riverboat Company's baseball boat. Think fresh river air versus a crowded Metro car. Hopefully it will be boarding soon at our waterfront.

There are certain to be festivals and events where you can sip beverages at galleries, brew houses, parks or gardens and visit the numerous outdoor dining and cock-

tail options all over our town.

Alexandria has been cited in premier travel publications as one of the country's top destinations. This calls on us to be gracious hosts for the visitors those designations are certain to bring. We know from Visit Alexandria reports that tourism generates hundreds of millions of dollars for local businesses and supports thousands of Alexandria jobs, and, after the pandemic, our restaurateurs and retailers – and their employees – need and deserve patronage more than ever before. Tourism also reduces the tax burden on our households.

Cities that are tourist destinations tend to also spur creative economies. The charm and vitality that lures tourists also attracts entre-

preneurs and helps businesses recruit skilled workers, and the snowball effect adds to the diversity and strength of Alexandria. That's part of the rationale for Amazon and Virginia Tech's Innovation Campus locating here.

What can we do to enhance our experience, as well as visitors' experiences, this summer? First, be welcoming in every way. Help someone who's struggling with a map or looking lost. You know how such help has made you feel in strange locations. Second, be ready to suggest great places for them to visit, shop or dine. We all value recommendations from locals when we travel.

Summer is here and it's finally a time when we can get out and savor our community – and let our enthusiasm become contagious to visitors.

Get out there and enjoy this summer!

*The writer is executive director of the Alexandria Small Business Development Center.*



**BILL  
REAGAN**

## Wilson's fictitious record of achievement

*To the editor:*

I just reviewed one of the most widely viewed campaign ads posted by Mayor Justin Wilson. In it, Wilson takes credit for: "A new hospital at a redeveloped Landmark Mall, [five] new schools over the next decade, the largest-ever investment in our sewers, nearly a thousand units of new affordable housing, ending fares on DASH Buses, the Potomac Yard Metro opening in a year, expanding transit in our West End and much, much more."

What do these things have in common? Wilson has promised several, in one form or another, since his last campaign. But not one of them is a straight line even on drafting paper. Only one has happened temporarily, and it's not clear that it's permanent. One of them requires substantially more than \$1,300 per household in public expenditures even to meaningfully start.

The actual results of his administration include:

- An unregulated, large-scale slaughterhouse that is subject to no granular or specific compliance regulations addressing waste, odor, particulate emissions or traffic, and that I believe lied on the record in order

to obtain private legislation, in the form of a Special Use Permit, that is already damaging nearby businesses.

- A completely needless and harmful road diet on Seminary Road, installed for the private benefit of a handful of his supporters, against the written advice of the city's fire department, snarling traffic and creating real and continuing hazards.

- The ongoing destruction of some of the city's last remaining forested parcels that are essential to absorb and channel water and mitigate the city's catastrophic flooding that has become progressively more frequent and severe.

Wilson's wonderful record is fiction – an aggressive and theatrical festival of self-congratulation. In fact, Wilson's administration has worked nothing but harm for most of the city.

Wilson and his compliant voting proxies Canek Aguirre and John Taylor Chapman have built a legacy of destruction and threaten to permanently change the face of the city. Each of them deserves to be remembered. And none of them deserves your vote.

*-Mark C. Williams,  
Alexandria*

## Vote for the mayor who will listen

*To the editor:*

When then Alexandria City Councilman Justin Wilson prepared to run for mayor in 2018, our Queen Street/North Royal Street neighborhood invited all council members to our homes to show the impact that a proposed, grossly out-of-scale expansion of a historic home would have on the neighborhood and historic preservation. City Council was scheduled to hold a public hearing on our appeal of the Planning Commission's decision.

Wilson entered the first home and boldly stated his view: "I hate public hearings," the future mayor said emphatically, not once, but twice. Clearly, Wilson was there to mark us off his "to-do" list, but not to listen to our important concerns.

In another case years later, involving the historic home long owned by the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, Wilson falsely accused our historic preservation group of personally attacking the new owner of the house who planned to destroy historic elements of the house. Though Alexandria's rich history and landmarks are draws for tourists from around the world, Wilson was indifferent.

Instances of Wilson's anti-resident/pro developer stance are scattered across Alexandria.

There are many reasons to deny Wilson a second term and to return former Mayor Allison Silberberg, but chief among them is the his unwillingness to hear the views of residents.

In the Alexandria Times Voter's Guide, both candidates were asked to answer 10 questions in one word answers. Topics ranged from the city's goal of increasing Alexandria's density to environmental issues and whether Alexandria City Public Schools should return to "full in-person" learning in the fall. Of the 10 questions, Wilson answered only four, while Silberberg responded to all.

Among the questions Wilson refused to answer concerned listening to neighborhoods' concerns: "On a scale of one to 10, with one lowest and 10 highest, how much does resident input, particularly from those most impacted by decisions, influence your position on issues?" Silberberg, however, answered, "8."

The choice is clear. We need to return the mayor's office to Silberberg, a leader with a strong record of transparency, truthfulness and in support of ethical standards; one who will treat all Alexandrians with dignity and respect and restore confidence in our government that has been shattered by the incumbent.

*-Gebe Martinez Johnson,  
Alexandria*

## Not heeding differs from not listening

*To the editor:*

I hear a great deal of complaining that the city leaders do not listen and for this reason they should be turned out of office. Now for a voter to complain that an elected official did not do as they wished and then show them the door at the next election is perfectly reasonable. But to label them insensitive takes more evidence. I do not think the evidence is there.

Perhaps our elected leaders did listen to the concerns and decided that the best interests of the city lay in another decision.

- The narrowing of Seminary Road is strenuously supported by bicyclists because it eliminated a treacherous stretch for them. The current configuration is much safer and consistent with the city's long-term goal of eliminating pedestrian deaths.

- The Taylor Run stream restoration was approved by City Council in 2018, with both mayoral candidates voting in favor of it. When concerns were raised this year to council, they put a pause on the project. That sounds responsive to me.

- The deliberate pace of responding to the unprecedentedly high rainfalls and the ensuing flooding in the past few years might be seen as good stewardship of city resources. If leadership reacted immediately to each problem, our

taxes would go through the roof. Ultimately City Council did respond to concerns.

Why isn't there more discussion of the great leadership we have seen in city government during the pandemic? Our city faced terrible problems the last 15 months without easy answers.

I would have liked schools to open last September. However, because of waiting, ACPS retained good relations with the staff and honored the concerns of many parents who were concerned about schools opening. At the same time, city leadership mitigated the consequences of school closings deftly. Among other things, no children went hungry during the pandemic because schools were providing meals all year long in multiple locations with no questions asked about income.

I think city leadership has done an excellent job finding the best decisions in most difficult circumstances. To turn them out because they did not always go with me on every decision seems selfish and, in the long term, foolish. I want courageous leadership that is willing to make tough decisions for the benefit of the whole city. I am voting for Mayor Justin Wilson and all the other incumbents on council and the school board this fall.

*-Jim Bender,  
Alexandria*

## Good government for all

*To the editor:*

Throughout the past several months, a number of City Council candidates have promised to be a voice for "... the voiceless," various demographics and certain interest groups.

We need a City Council that will provide good govern-

ment for all of Alexandria and stop the divisive leadership. We need good city government – and if you're not able to provide that to all Alexandria residents, then you probably should drop out of the race.

*-Kara Fast,  
Alexandria*

## The many ways Silberberg helped fight COVID-19

*To the editor:*

In the May 27 Alexandria Times, Benjamin Dawes wrote a letter to the editor, "Silberberg ignored the pandemic." His assertions about Allison Silberberg couldn't be further from the truth. I wonder who or what prompted him to write such a misleading piece?

Silberberg's call to action in response to the pandemic has been outstanding, and she was not a public official.

As a private citizen, she jumped into action immediately as the pandemic was approaching. In 2020, she served on two local nonprofit boards, Community Lodgings and Friends of the Alexandria Mental Health Center, both of which serve either our most vulnerable or those with mental health challenges. Both organizations ramped up quickly to help during the harrowing year.

In the late spring, a group of residents created the Alexandria Community Alliance to deliver food, cleaning supplies and diapers to anyone who needed help. Based upon her immediate involvement, Silberberg was asked to serve on the board. She recruited others to join the all-volunteer effort. Together, ACA delivered food and supplies to 30 to 50 families a week until the fall of 2020. She donated to local nonprofits and urged others to join in helping our most vulnerable.

In August, Silberberg volunteered for Casa Chirilagua's food distribution. She wrote an impressive column for The Washington Post about Casa Chirilagua's amazing work as well as the growing hunger in our midst.

She has repeatedly praised the Alexandria Health Department for their outstanding leadership in directing our city's response to the pandemic and their excellent execution of the vaccination program. It is important to remember that the direction and guidelines for our city's response came from the Commonwealth of Virginia, and were put in place by AHD.

She also wrote a moving column that ran in The Alexandria Times on March 26, 2020. She gave calming, specific guidance for young and old alike.

When the vaccine started to become available, Silberberg was inundated with calls and emails from seniors who needed help navigating the system. She put them in touch with Senior Services of Alexandria and the Van Dorn Pharmacy on the West End, even though she had no official role in the city. That's leadership.

Silberberg is not one to toot her own horn, but she is someone who gets things done, especially for our most vulnerable. As she has stated in every debate during this campaign, if elected as Alexandria's next mayor, Allison would remain steadfast in her commitment to building a post COVID-19 economic recovery that supports Alexandria's businesses and our most vulnerable.

Allison Silberberg's actions during COVID-19 demonstrate that she cares for the people of our community and is the mayor you can trust.

*-Carter Flemming,  
Alexandria*

## Stop the steal

*To the editor:*

Are readers aware that Republicans and other non-Democrats can vote in the June 8 Democratic primary? Old Town anti-waterfront-development Republicans certainly helped former Mayor Allison Silberberg win in 2015. I certainly do not know whether they

will influence this year's primary, if at all or decisively. But Republicans who claim there must be new voter restrictions to prevent fraud should support legislation preventing this crossover voting in Alexandria primaries.

*-H.J. Rosenbaum,  
Alexandria*

**MEMORIAL**

FROM | 25

the Old Town North Community Partnership for their support.

Currently the flags do not include the names of specific individuals lost, but family members who wish to write their loved one's name or a message on a flag can contact Louise Kenny at Notice.

communications@gmail.com

The Alexandria Remembrance will remain in Rivergate Park until June 21.

We invite fellow Alexandrians to come to visit the site and remember our own who have been lost to COVID-19.

*-Louise Kenny, Mace Carpenter,  
Margaret Townsend,  
Alexandria*

## My choice: Wilson

*To the editor:*

Leadership matters. Justin Wilson has been a strong steward for Alexandria during his tenure as mayor and deserves a second term. He has built coalition on City Council to effectively govern and move our city forward. The recent example was a unanimous vote in favor of a city budget that includes a property tax rate reduction – while still funding priorities, including flood mitigation.

Wilson has been extraordinarily responsive to my constituent service requests – a story shared by so many Alexandrians. His term as mayor has not been without controversial votes, but that is what the job requires. Each time, I have listened to his reasoning and found a thoughtful response that is rooted in law, community input and the need to govern.

Unfortunately, I cannot say the same about the term of former Mayor Allison Silberberg. Too often she was the lone "No" vote on issues that matter to the future

of our community, including the largest capital improvement budget for our schools in city history and multiple developments that included affordable housing.

Meetings dragged on into the night and too frequently perfect was the enemy of good. In the current campaign, she continues to raise issues that are red herrings and lacks specific details about topics when pressed. The campaign has been what she is against, rather than what she supports.

As the Times reported, significant financial backing for her campaign come from large donations from individuals supporting some of these grievances. We have too many important choices to entrust the mayoral position to a candidate that has not shown the ability to build coalitions and effectively govern. Before you make your selection, I encourage you to watch the debates between the candidates. For me, these debates make the decision clear.

*-Ed Mills,  
Alexandria*

## Levine for lieutenant governor

*To the editor:*

I have known and supported Mark Levine since he entered his first race for the House of Delegates in Virginia's 45th district six years ago. I'm supporting Levine for lieutenant governor because he fights for the issues that strengthen Virginia for the people. On Levine's second day in the General Assembly he created the Transparency Caucus and led the charge to live stream all subcommittee, committee and floor proceedings. This is a big deal. Now, lawmakers' votes are public and recorded, and Virginians can testify electronically. The "old" backroom way of doing business is gone in Richmond. But Levine was just getting started. From fighting to pass common-sense gun safety measures to ensuring that all Virginians have access to affordable healthcare, Mark has done much for the people of his district and across the state.

Levine's dedication to public service and making change is deep-

ly personal. Spurred on by the tragedy of his sister being murdered by her husband, Levine wrote the first law in Tennessee to prevent children from being forced into the custody of an abuser. He wrote this law as a private citizen, and he has been pushing ever since for changes that protect the vulnerable and promote economic opportunity, equity and strengthened voting rights.

Most importantly, I'm voting for Levine because he doesn't back down from a challenge. When he sees injustice, flaws in government that make life harder for people, or inequities that prevent all Virginians from flourishing, he gets to work for change. Mark does not go along to get along. He fights for us. As lieutenant governor, he'll have the platform to fight for everyone in our great Commonwealth.

Join me in voting Mark Levine for lieutenant governor on June 8!

*-Helen Morris,  
Alexandria*

# Aguirre and Chapman must go

*To the editor:*

The Alexandria Times editorial endorsements underestimate the egregiousness of City Council's refusal to fund school resource officers as an aggression against the nonpartisan nature of our elected school board and its autonomy.

The four City Council members voting to take school resource officers out of the budget inserted themselves into a decision that is and has historically been the elected School Board's. City Council is treating the elected School Board the same way council would have decades ago treated an appointed school board and today treats the Traffic and Parking Board or the BAR – boards it appoints and properly can and sometimes does overrule.

But, because the School Board is an elected, co-equal body, the four City Council members voting to effectively overrule the board's decision on school resource officers have misused their discretion. If they get away with it this time, this will not be the last time City Council meddles in the province of our elected School Board.

Your voter guide reveals this as their implicit intent. Councilor John Chapman's answer about the city's greatest area of need post-COVID is "ensuring kids return to five-day in-person learning," a determination for the elected School Board to make.

In some nearby places, the political parties make school board endorsements, effectively turning nonparti-

san school board contests into partisan ones. Unless council reverses its 4-3 vote to defund school resource officers or transfers funding for school security into the school board's budget, it will continue subordinating the School Board's autonomy.

Elected school board advocates strove for two decades to overcome legislative resistance to electing rather than appointing school boards in Virginia, until finally the legislature acceded and Gov. L. Douglas Wilder signed the new law almost 30 years ago. Even still, advocates had to gather petitions signed by 10% of registered city voters to trigger a referendum and drum up voter support to pass it.

Elections are a blunt instrument for the public to express its will, but it is the only instrument we have. And the only way voters can send a message that we respect our School Board and want to preserve its independence is to vote out of office Canek Aguirre and John Chapman. They should not be substituting their judgments for those of the School Board, which painstakingly sought public input before reaching its decision and whose members the voters elected to be in charge of schools.

Instead, Aguirre and Chapman should be running for the School Board – they still have time to do so before the filing deadline – where, if they win, they can vote to discontinue school resource officers.

*-Dino Drudi,  
Alexandria*

# Ethics so nice, he violated them twice

*To the editor:*

You can imagine my surprise last week when I opened my mailbox to find a 17-page insult mailed to me at what, I presume, was my own expense.

This insult – a political mailer on official House of Delegates letterhead, with his Alexandria City Hall office as a return address – came from Delegate Mark Levine. Though he has sent similar letters in the past, what I found galling about this one was the blatant use of taxpayer resources to campaign.

While ostensibly a legislative update from Richmond, that vainly strove to frame his paltry accomplishments this session as central to the survival of the Commonwealth, the letter was a laughably transparent effort by Levine

to remind everyone that he is bizarrely running for two separate offices and to ask for political support. I am far from the only HD-45 resident outraged by this misuse of public funds, and I am disappointed but wholly unsurprised that the delegate doesn't know better.

Delegate Levine asks for us to vote for him twice, but on June 8 I think I'd rather vote once, for Elizabeth Bennett-Parker. She has been an effective, ethical leader in Alexandria, and I know that in Richmond she will continue to lead with the integrity we expect from those in the public's service. I respectfully ask that you join me in voting for Elizabeth next week.

*-Jesse O'Connell,  
Alexandria*

# We need Silberberg

*To the editor:*

In response to the question in the May 20 Alexandria Times Voter's Guide "What's the biggest problem facing Alexandria right now?" Allison Silberberg wrote, "The biggest problem is out-of-scale overbuilding that doesn't take into account surrounding neighborhoods, infrastructure and school capacity." Silberberg is spot on, and this is why we need her as our next mayor.

The incumbent mayor and council voted unanimously to allow an out-of-town developer to build three seven-story buildings in a neighborhood of two-to-three story townhouses and garden apartments, despite widespread opposition from people who live in that neighborhood. Alexandria is

already the most densely populated city in Virginia. If the current development trends continue, what will happen to our beautiful low-rise residential neighborhoods, our parks, schools, waterfront, traffic and especially our environment?

We need a mayor who will have a balanced approach to development and who will respect the views of neighborhood residents, unlike the current mayor and council. Let's elect Allison Silberberg as our next mayor and also elect a council that will listen to and respect the opinions of people who live in Alexandria, especially those in neighborhoods where developments are proposed.

*-Albert C. Pierce,  
Alexandria*

# Silberberg is the one

*To the editor:*

I am writing to express my concern about the future of Alexandria. The failure of Mayor Justin Wilson and most City Council members to ensure the quality of life my family and I have come to enjoy as residents of this historic city is disheartening. For that reason, I am voting for Allison Silberberg for mayor of Alexandria in the Democratic primary.

While there are many reasons to be concerned with the current mayor's policies, in each of our neighborhoods, it has been my experience that while he will meet with residents or whip out a quick email, he is perfectly satisfied to provide a textbook response to a citizen's question. In my case he did not follow up. He lacks the interest to understand the concerns brought to him by individual citizens or the community.

My personal experience was as a board member of a Condominium Association in the Landmark Area. The association was interested in pursuing and installing photovoltaic solar panels in the condominium. Representing the board, I and another member scheduled a meeting with the mayor to discuss the matter and the possibility of acquiring city

approval for such an environmental and economic enhancement.

I was greatly disappointed in my meeting with the mayor. His knowledge of the city regulations was significant, and he appeared to have a well-informed technocrat's grasp of the issue, almost as though he had a graduate degree from Google. However, his final recommendation was that we get the item placed on the City Council agenda, as if he were handing us a copy of "How a bill becomes a law." No interest. No great idea. No leadership.

Alexandria is a delightful city, which is why we chose to locate here. However, the change of the landscape approved by the city over the last few years has been enormous, not of the scale or character that has been so appealing to my family. It is for that reason that I am voting for the candidate that cares about the environment, that cares about the community, that cares about Alexandria's future and truly listens to Alexandria residents.

I am voting for the candidate that cares about our quality of life. I am voting for Allison Silberberg for mayor.

*-Craig M. Silman,  
Alexandria*

# “Female impersonators” entertain at Capitol Theatre

In the 1930s, Black nightclubs in large cities like Washington D.C. and New York regularly featured “female impersonators” who entertained audiences with their singing, dancing, and glamorous appearance. Labeled as “pansies” by the Black press, these gender nonconforming performers attracted diverse audiences that included Black and white ticketholders, men and women and straights, gays and bisexuals.

While the “pansy craze” is mainly associated with big cities, Alexandria occasionally hosted performances by female impersonators at the original Capitol Theatre at Queen and North Henry streets.

Please note that some performers at the time may have identified as female and, by today’s standards, some might have considered themselves to be transgender, but historians studying this time and these performers caution against applying such relatively recent labels and instead generally refer to them

as “gender nonconforming.”

The theater, having undergone renovations and changes in ownership and name, was under new management when it reopened as the Capitol in late 1932. The Capitol served the African American community and in addition to offering motion pictures, it also hosted live entertainment including performances by local gender nonconforming artists. Accounts from the Washington Tribune provide a look at two of these shows.

In spring 1934, Henry Roberts, a young man from Alexandria, performed as “Heneritta” at the Capitol’s amateur night. After singing “I Want You, I Need You” and “Stardust,” he returned to the stage for an encore when audience members chanted “We want Heneritta.” According to the Tribune, Roberts had the orchestra play “The Carioca” and “Heneritta gave the Alexandrians some new lessons on snake hips and the shim-sham” while offering a “few feminine dances.”

A year later, the Tribune covered the appearance of Louis Diggs at the Capitol Theatre. The Tribune referred to Diggs with female pronouns in quotation marks, writing that “Mother” Diggs “sang and danced ‘her’ way to the title of Alexandria’s queen,” “flirted with the audience” and ran “up and down the aisle, switching ‘her’ lovely dress as if ‘she’ were Mae West.” After the show, Diggs reportedly had to navigate through a crowd of men, women and children to reach a waiting car. His popularity perhaps may not have been that surprising because although Diggs lived in Washington, he had strong family connections to Alexandria.

Diggs was not only one of the most well-known and successful performers, but he also publicly defended female impersonators after a columnist for the Afro-American newspaper called the “pansy craze” a “parading of filth and perversion” and the performers an “army of freaks.”

Diggs wrote, in part, “I

have developed into a Louis Diggs that I alone have created – and to a generation that would have me no other way.” Diggs added, “Through the history of civilization, psychology tells us that there have always been homosexuals. No normal male – man or boy, would be influenced to become effeminate by viewing female impersonators unless he was already in a stage of developing into an invert. Why then, are we criticized as social menaces?”

Although media and public interest in these performers subsided, drag shows continued within the gay community as they had before. The old Capitol Theatre closed in the late 1930s and was replaced by a new theater with the same name. Henry Roberts died in Philadelphia in 1957 and was buried in Alexandria’s Bethel Cemetery. Louis Diggs, who continued to work as an entertainer, died in Washington D.C. in 1996.

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

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Prior to the pandemic, these programs and solutions would have been welcome additions to any learning environment. To not only conceive of but execute these kinds of creative and necessary lessons during such a challenging time is worthy of praise.

Whether they stayed up late to help the city’s young English learners or wrangled a virtual classroom of 20 music students, Alexandria teachers have poured their blood, sweat and tears into our schools. It’s no wonder that, after what has been an emotionally, physically and psychologically draining school year, some teachers

would rather take the summer off – while others would rather leave the district or the profession altogether.

ACPS staff confirmed during the May 20 School Board meeting that 128 teachers have left ACPS during the 2020-2021 school year. We wish these teachers the best in whatever they end up doing next.

And to the teachers that will remain with ACPS, we thank you. We know it hasn’t been easy – even before the pandemic, this job never was – but the commitment, ingenuity and enthusiasm you have shown even at the darkest of times has been truly inspiring.

Clearly, those who can do, teach.

## Weekly Poll

### Last Week

Is your child taking part in summer learning this year?

- 57% Doesn't apply.
- 29% No.
- 11% I didn't know summer school was happening.
- 3% Yes.

### This Week

How do you plan on voting in the June 8 Democratic primary?

- A) I plan on voting early in-person.
- B) I plan on voting by mail.
- C) I plan on voting in-person at my polling station on June 8.
- D) I have already voted early.
- E) I do not plan on voting in the Democratic primary.

[Take the poll at alextimes.com](#)



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**DIVORCE-Uncontested,** \$395+\$86 court cost. WILLS

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**SW Engineer Sr.** to work in Alexandria, VA. Apply [www.saic.com](http://www.saic.com), Science Applications International Corporation. Job code # 216146. EOE.

## PUBLIC NOTICE



### Board of Architectural Review LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Architectural Review (BAR) will hold an Electronic Public Hearing on WEDNESDAY, June 16, 2021 beginning at 7:00 p.m. to review the following item(s):

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, the June 16, 2021 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 Sections 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. The meeting can be accessed by the public through: Zoom hyperlink (below), broadcasted live on the government channel 70, and streaming on the City's website.

URL: [https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/WN\\_h1O4muSJSAOE\\_s2IJ8DhFFw](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/WN_h1O4muSJSAOE_s2IJ8DhFFw)

\*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: 932 7772 9884  
Password: 297670

Public comments will be received at the meeting. The public may

**MILITARY ITEMS WANTED**  
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Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority • [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) • 2901 Hermitage Road • Richmond, VA 23220 • (800) 552-3200

### RETAIL LICENSE APPLICATION—PART 2 (POSTING AND PUBLISHING)

#### PUBLISHING NOTICE

Please publish the following item in the legal notice section of your newspaper. Please refer to the instructions provided on page 9.

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

Trading as: La Feria Latina  
(trade name)

3842 Mount Vernon Ave  
(exact street address where business will trade)

Alexandria  
(city/town)

(county) Virginia 22305-2409  
(state) (zip + 4)

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY

for a Wine and Beer Off Premises license  
(type(s) of license(s) applied for)

to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Yong J. Chang President  
(name and title of owner/partner/officer authorizing advertisement)

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



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### RETAIL LICENSE APPLICATION—PART 2 (POSTING AND PUBLISHING)

#### PUBLISHING NOTICE

Please publish the following item in the legal notice section of your newspaper. Please refer to the instructions provided on page 9.

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

Trading as: McQuitty & LeMasters Wine Distributor  
(trade name)

35 S. Dove St  
(exact street address where business will trade)

Alexandria  
(city/town)

(county) Virginia 22314-4603  
(state) (zip + 4)

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY

for a Wine Importer and Wine Wholesale license  
(type(s) of license(s) applied for)

to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Glenn B LeMasters Jr., CEO - Member  
(name and title of owner/partner/officer authorizing advertisement)

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

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 #2021-00236 OHAD  
Request for partial demolition/encapsulation at 413 North Washington Street.  
Applicant: Anne Toth

BAR #2021-00261 OHAD  
Request for alterations at 413 North Washington Street.  
Applicant: Anne Toth

Board of Architectural Review  
Legal Training.

Electronic Participation Policy  
for Board of Architectural Review Hearings.

Resolution Finding Need to  
Conduct the Board of Architectural Review Electronically.

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**



**ALEXANDRIA PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT  
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW**

The following requests have been received for administrative review and approval.

For information on the following applications or to comment, visit the City's website at www.alexandriava.gov/planning or call 703.746.4666.

Special Use Permit #2021-00049  
1033 West Glebe Road  
Administrative Special Use

**Classifieds**

Permit request for a New Use of a Restaurant; zone: CG/Commercial General.  
Applicant: 1033 W Glebe Road ALX LLC  
PLANNER: Rachel Drescher - Rachel.Drescher@alexandriava.gov  
In accordance with section

11-500 of the zoning ordinance, the above listed request may be approved administratively by the Director of Planning & Zoning. If you have any comments regarding the proposal above, please contact Planning & Zoning staff at 703.746.4666 or email the planner listed no later than June 24, 2021.

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**Obituary**

**Sharon Forsythe Luther**



COURTESY PHOTO

Sharon Forsythe Luther, 57, of Alexandria, passed away on May 9 at home. She had battled metastatic triple negative breast cancer for over five years.

Sharon was born on Nov. 3, 1963 in Halifax, Nova Scotia where her dad Cameron Forsythe flew jets for the Royal Canadian Air Force. Cameron and his wife Eleanor left Canada so he could join United Airlines as a pilot. They lived in Fairfax, Virginia and later in Alexandria.

Sharon graduated from Robinson High School in Fairfax, received her bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and her master's in business from George Washington University. At the university she was in the Tri Sigma sorority. She initially worked for 3M, but left to join IBM in government sales, staying for 25 years. She then joined Amazon Web Services and stayed until she was too sick to continue.

Sharon and her family lived in Del Ray for many years, and then moved to George Washington Park

near the Masonic Temple. Sharon is survived by her husband, Bob Luther, daughter, Catherine, and son, Cameron. Her sister, Caroline Eberhard, lives in Fairfax Station.

Sharon loved the family dogs: Daisy, Jenny, Charlie and Scout. She often pitched in to transport rescue dogs. Her favorite charity was Rocky Ridge Refuge in Midway, Arkansas, where proprietor Janice Wolf performs miracles with injured and deformed creatures whom no one else will take in.

Family, friends and former co-workers will gather on the evening of June 12 to celebrate the life of Sharon.



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