



Alexandria's own



PHOTO/ KIMBERLEE BRYCE FOR THE BALLYSHANERS INC.

Pat and Bernadette Troy, the founders of the Ballyshanners, served as grand marshals of the St. Patrick's Day parade in 2018. Pat Troy would pass away four days after the parade, on March 22, 2018.

After delaying St. Patrick's Day parade, Ballyshanners look to the future

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

For the past four decades, thousands of people have crammed onto King Street's sidewalks to watch the city's St. Patrick's Day Parade on the first Saturday in March. Billed as the earliest St. Paddy's parade in the country, the annual event has long been an attraction for people throughout the DMV, a day of celebration for Irish and non-Irish alike that draws thousands of onlookers – and prospective customers – to Old Town.

Although many had hoped the parade would make a return this year after two

years off due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ballyshanners, the Irish heritage organization that puts on the parade, announced last month it would be delaying the parade to sometime in September.

No one is more disappointed than the Ballyshanners, as the parade has been its biggest event each year since 1982.

"It was definitely disappointing that it was cancelled, but Omicron was spiking and there was no way to know what the situation was going to be," Catherine Moran, the Ballyshanners' current treasurer, said. "It needed a certain lead time that the present circumstances just

SEE **BALLYSHANNERS** | 6

City moves on broadband

Council approves two right-of-way franchises

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

City Council approved two right-of-way franchises, Ting and Lumos Telephone, for broadband services at its public hearing on Saturday.

The much-anticipated approval will allow the two

internet providers to use public rights-of-ways in Alexandria for "the design, construction, operation, installation, maintenance, repair, upgrade, removal and operation of a fiber to the premises broadband network for offering broadband internet access and

SEE **BROADBAND**

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Tying the Knot



COURTESY PHOTO

City Councilor Kirk McPike and Beth El Hebrew Cantor Jason Kaufman found love in politics, faith and Marvel movies. Read their full wedding story on page 14.

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Matt & Tony's

New Del Ray restaurant fulfills owner's dream. Page 12

CITY CREATIVES

APRIL 7, 2022

Dive into the minds of local artists and learn about upcoming events in the Alexandria Times' new arts section.



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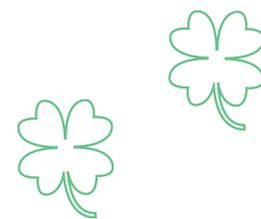


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COMPASS

WEEKLY BRIEFING

B.I. cheerleaders win national championship

Bishop Ireton's varsity cheerleaders took home historic victories this past weekend, as they earned four first place awards for each of their routines at the Christian Cheerleaders of America Nationals competition.

B.I.'s cheerleaders also won a CCA Grand Championship title with the highest score

in any division as well as the Best Stunt Sequence superlative for their pyramid.

Since 2016, B.I. has won first place at both CCA Nationals and Grand Championships, except during 2021 when they did not attend Nationals due to the pandemic. According to a news release, 90% of B.I.'s

squad this year had never competed in Nationals.

Angela Hope-Eskew, the coach for B.I. who was named the 2013 National Coach of the Year and was later inducted into the National Christian Coach's Hall of Fame, was also awarded over the weekend.

-cmelloklein@alextimes.com



COURTESY PHOTO

The Bishop Ireton cheerleading team took home first place in the CCA Nationals and Grand Championship titles, securing a Best Stunt Sequence superlative for its pyramid.

Excellence in Aging Awards nominations open

The Alexandria Commission on Aging opened nominations for its annual Excellence in Aging Awards on Tuesday.

The awards program will be held virtually on May 10 and it aims to honor community members, regardless of their age, and organizations that have "provided service to older Alexandrians or demonstrated superior contribu-

tions in advancing issues and projects that favorably affect older Alexandrians," according to a news release.

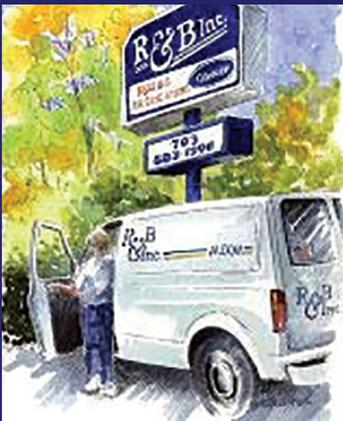
The awards are divided into four categories: the Annie B. Rose Lifetime Award; the Lois Van Valkenburgh Excellence in Aging Award; the Excellence in Aging Award for an Organization and the Public Service Award. Previous award

winners include Torpedo Factory leader and former member of the Virginia House of Delegates Marian Van Landingham and Del Pepper, who retired in December after 36 years on City Council. To nominate a resident or organization, visit www.survey.alexandriava.gov/s3/2022-COA-Awards-Nomination-Packet.

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WEEKLY BRIEFING

Spring program registration begins next week

Spring is just around the corner, and the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities is opening up registration for its slate of spring and summer classes, leagues and activities next week, according to a news release. Registration for Alexandria residents starts at 9 a.m. on March 23, while non-residents will have to wait until 9 a.m. on March 25 to sign up.

Registration can be completed online at <https://rec.alexandriava.gov/webtrac/wbws/rt14prd.wsc/wbsplash.html> or in person at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation for a complete list of available activities.

The city also has season passes for pool season and reservations of outdoor space for gatherings.

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COURTESY PHOTO

The Alexandria chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians hosted an Irish hooley, or festival, in Basilica of Saint Mary's gym on Sunday. The fifth annual in-person St. Patrick's Day hooley attracted 400 people and raised \$8,000 for Christ House.

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Farmers' market launches new program

The Del Ray Farmers' Market announced the launch of a weekly children's program this spring, the Del Ray Power of Produce Kids Club, according to a news release. The program aims to educate children about nutrition, food and farming by connecting them with local farmers and nonprofits.

Every Saturday between

April 23 and May 28, the PoP Kids' Club ten will be open to children at the Del Ray Farmers' Market, a weekly, year-round farmers' market that has been operating at Mount Vernon and Oxford avenues for 28 years. The tent will be available during market hours from 9 a.m. to noon and activities are available for children 4 to 12 years old,

according to the release.

Each week during the program's initial run will feature a different activity, including a market scavenger hunt, lesson on pollinators and an at-home gardening exercise.

To register for the PoP Club, visit www.delrayfarmersmarket.com.

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St. Paul's invests in Latinx community

St. Paul's Episcopal Church committed to a \$150,000 contribution and multi-year partnership with the Latino Economic Development Center to support entrepreneurs and small businesses in the city's Latinx community and other marginalized communities, according to a March 8 news release.

The funding will go toward providing new business opportunities, increased financial capabilities and access to capital for minorities, immigrants and refugees in Alexandria, according to the release.

LEDC is a nonprofit with locations throughout the DMV and Puerto Rico that was

founded in 1991 in the aftermath of the Mount Pleasant Riots, which stemmed from police shooting a Latino man in the D.C. neighborhood. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, built in 1818, is located at 228 S. Pitt St. and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

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PHOTO/ KIMBERLEE BRYCE FOR THE BALLYSHANERS INC.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade is open to everyone, although there is a significant representation from various Irish heritage and cultural organizations, including the Ancient Order of the Hibernians.

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BALLYSHANERS FROM | 1
didn't allow us."

With the parade delayed six months and the organization's chair and vice chair stepping down in recent months, the Ballyshanners are looking to the future as they chart the next steps in what has been a successful and surprising 40 years.

Although the Ballyshanners are based in Old Town and aim to honor the history of the Irish in Alexandria, they are rooted in Irish soil. Pat and Bernadette Troy, the organization's founders, were born in Ireland – Pat in County Offaly and Bernadette in County Kerry.

While Pat was working as a butler in Ireland, he connected with an American tourist who offered to sponsor him, allowing him to live and work in the United States. In 1962, Pat moved across the Atlantic, where he continued working as a butler for families in Detroit and eventually in D.C.

Pat and Bernadette, who had immigrated to the U.S. in 1959, met in the D.C. area, where Bernadette was working for Riggs Bank. The two settled in Alexandria and lived there for 40 years, raising their two children, Patrick and

Kathleen, and growing two local businesses, the souvenir and Irish goods store Irish Walk and Ireland's Own pub.

In 1981, they also kick-started the Ballyshanners, a word coined in the early days of the organization that means "Old Towners" in Gaelic. From the very beginning, the mission of both the Ballyshanners and the parade was to celebrate the history and legacy of the city's Irish residents, past and present.

"We [are] primarily an organization to put the parade on, but we also did events to try to make sure people were aware of the Irish heritage of Old Town and to be a meeting place for those of Irish heritage and disseminate the history and culture of Ireland in Alexandria," Mike Pablo, who served as vice president and then chair of the Ballyshanners between 2011 and 2017, said.

"We are one cultural aspect of Old Town, but the history of the Irish in Old Town goes back a long way," Pablo added. "One of the founding individuals of [Alexandria] was Colonel John Fitzgerald, who was aide to General [George] Washington."

A year later, in 1982, the Ballyshanners organized the city's first St. Patrick's Day

parade, which was much more modest than its modern incarnations. According to Kate Moore, who served as chair between 2017 and 2021, the first parade spanned about three blocks of King Street. Over time, the event has stretched further and further along King Street and has grown to encompass about 10,000 individual participants and 100 vehicles, according to Pablo.

For local businesses and the city, the parade is also a major economic driver.

"From my understanding, it's one of the biggest sales tax revenue days in the city of Alexandria now," Moran said.

Recently, the parade has included members of the military, local Boy and Girl Scout troops, marching bands, Irish dance groups, nonprofits and other cultural groups, including a significant increase in Bolivian dance groups. According to Moore, the parade has become more inclusive over the last 10 years in an attempt to celebrate the entirety of Alexandria.

"When I first started in the Ballyshanners, it was a pretty isolated group," Moore said. "Over the last 10 years or so

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“ [The Ballyshaners] made me aware of my family background and it brought an aspect that I was aware of more to the forefront of my life. It made me more knowledgeable and made me more curious about my own background.”

-Mike Pablo,
former chair, Ballyshaners



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BALLYSHANERS FROM | 6

we have really wanted to highlight members of the community and we've made efforts to be more community focused.”

“Everybody's Irish on the parade day,” Pablo said.

Beyond the parade, there is now also a dog show put on in collaboration with the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and a car show that awards winners who would drive dignitaries – including the Irish ambassador, parade grand marshal and local politicians – along the parade route.

However, the St. Patrick's Day parade is not the Ballyshaners' only annual event. The organization also holds the Irish Festival in late summer and a series of fundraisers at well known local pubs, like Murphy's and Daniel O'Connell's.

For the Ballyshaners' members and volunteers, the organization has long provided an opportunity to socialize and bond with fellow Irish Alexandrians.

“We're also basically a social club as well. We'd meet monthly just to gather together and celebrate our

heritage,” Pablo said. “Obviously, the pub life is a big part of Irish heritage, and we are fortunate to have many great Irish pubs in Old Town.”

The pub, specifically Pat Troy's pub which closed in 1999, was often the gateway for new Ballyshaners. Pablo, Moore and Moran were all regulars at Ireland's Own and recalled hearing word of Ballyshaners' meetings in the back of the pub, meetings they eventually joined.

For Pablo, his time with the Ballyshaners has also helped educate him about the history of the Irish in Alexandria and grounded his Irish identity in a new way.

“It made me aware of my family background and it brought an aspect that I was aware of more to the forefront of my life,” Pablo said. “It made me more knowledgeable and made me more curious about my own background.”

With the recent death of Bernadette Troy on Feb. 21, 2022, following Pat Troy's passing on March 22, 2018, the Ballyshaners have been reflecting on the legacy of their founders and pondering

SEE BALLYSHANERS | 9



PHOTO/ KIMBERLEE BRYCE FOR THE BALLYSHANERS INC.

The Ballyshaners have been organizing the Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade since 1982, when Pat and Bernadette Troy founded the Irish heritage organization.

BROADBAND FROM | 1

related infrastructure in the city,” according to the report from city staff.

Previously, Comcast was the single choice for broadband service in the city.

Mike Saperstein, head of government affairs and general counsel for Lumos, said that he’s excited to provide “future-proof, multi-gigabyte 100% fiber service” to the city and highlighted Lumos’ service in both rural and urban areas.

However he also said that while the city’s goals of creating competition are understandable, “there is a fine line to continued business viability

under this franchise” due to provisions that “differ from others we’ve seen and affect the competitive landscape and leave us with some important business considerations in the days ahead as to its viability.”

Elliot Noss, CEO of Ting, asserted that internet access is “core infrastructure” and should be thought of in the same way as water and power, where the goal of equal access is implied.

“We have very aggressive obligations around equal access, around providing free WiFi access in parks, around providing free internet access to those who need it embedded in the franchise agreement,”

Noss said. He also called on the city to partner with them on certain public works issues related to construction and requirements in the coming weeks.

City Council generally agreed that the approval is a step forward for the city, but Councilor Canek Aguirre also pointed out that “equal access isn’t equitable access.”

“That’s very important to keep in mind. I don’t think I’m going too far out on a limb to say this council has equity as a very high priority and that our city has equity as a very high priority, so I just want to keep that in both groups’ minds,” Aguirre said.

Councilor Sarah Bagley questioned when the community will start to see impacts, to which Deputy City Manager Laura Triggs responded that next steps include construction and permitting.

“Over the next 30 to 60 days we’ll be working with them on how we want to get the permits in and what the construction standards look like,” Triggs said. “Once they sign, they can start submitting permits. We’ll have a review period for the permits but they can start signaling when they want to construct.”

Mayor Justin Wilson said this process has been a long time coming and that he’s

excited for the city to move forward on what is a highly-anticipated piece of infrastructure.

“Something we’ve been talking about for well over a decade is finally happening and this is an investment in the basic infrastructure of our community, and something that is seen as essential in most of the world,” Wilson said. “We have clearly more work to do to get there but this is really exciting.”

Vice Mayor Amy Jackson moved to approve the item, with a second from Councilor John Chapman. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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BALLYSHANERS FROM | 8

the organization’s future.

Although Bernadette was involved in some Ballyshanners’ work, she took more of a behind-the-scenes role while her husband served as the face of the organization. Friends described Bernadette as smart, business savvy and devoted to her family, faith and home country.

“Bernie was always the silent leader – not of the Ballyshanners but of Pat,”

Moore said. “She was an extremely intelligent person. She would have the ability to tell Pat when he needed to calm down a little bit.”

Pat and Bernadette Troy were described as active, vocal community members who helped energize Alexandria through their businesses and abundant pride in their identities as both Irish and American. Bernadette took annual trips back to Ireland.

“They were happy of their split loyalties, and I think

having someone as outspoken and as vibrant as the two of them, I think that’s going to be the biggest loss going forward: not having them around to be such outspoken, vocal, prominent proponents of Irish heritage in Alexandria,” Pablo said.

In recent years, Moran said the Ballyshanners have experi-

enced a drop in new members joining the organization, due in part to the pandemic but also the changing nature of Alexandria. Whether delaying the parade will have an impact on recruitment is still up in the air, but the Ballyshanners remain hopeful about the future of the parade and their organization.

For Moore, who remains active in the Ballyshanners, the parade is about more than just a single holiday: It’s about celebrating the city as a whole. During the pandemic, that’s more important than ever.

“We’re not just an Irish parade – we’re an Alexandria parade,” Moore said.

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PHOTO/ KIMBERLEE BRYCE FOR THE BALLYSHANNERS INC.

Irish dance groups like the ShamrockRs are common participants in the St. Patrick’s Day parade.

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Council extends emergency business relief

Temporary parklet program will run through Sept. 30

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

City Council voted during its Saturday public hearing to extend a temporary business relief program implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic until the permanent program kicks in on Oct. 1.

Some of the program initiatives include things residents and businesses have become accustomed to during the pandemic, like curbside delivery and pick-up service; the suspension of hours of operation regulations; the sale of alcohol to go and the ability to set up parklets, or outdoor dining on sidewalks, parking lots and, in certain cases, parking spaces outside businesses. The city's state of emergency will end on the

same day, Sept. 30, marking the conclusion of a 30-month run since the pandemic began in March 2020.

Although the temporary program was originally set to expire on April 1, staff recommended extending it through June 30. But at the March 8 legislative meeting council opted to delay the start of a permanent parklet program until Oct. 1 which, without Saturday's approval, would have left a six-month limbo period without any permit program in place.

During the public hearing, Councilor Sarah Bagley questioned what to do with underutilized parklets. She speculated that the permitting process might goad certain business owners to give back the parking spot or remove tables from the parklets.

"If we blanket extend this

“ If we blanket extend this through Sept. 30, we lose the ability to talk with some of those business owners potentially about how they effectively plan to use it.”

– Sarah Bagley,
councilor

through Sept. 30, we lose the ability to talk with some of those business owners potentially about how they effectively plan to use it,” Bagley said.

She asked if there is a tool to work with the retailers who may be underutilizing their parklet.

Staff said that enforcement

action may take place, since the zoning ordinance includes a section stating that retail operations must have displays and operate out of that parking space while open.

One speaker, Margaret Hayek, expressed concerns regarding some of the outdoor dining changes proposed at the March 8 legislative meeting, such as regulating and charging fees for the parklets. Many restaurant owners said they believed the proposed fees were too high.

If approved, businesses along and one block north and south of King Street would pay \$3,000 per parking spot per year. Other commercial areas such as Carlyle would pay about \$2,000 per spot per year, and low-income areas such as Arlandria would pay \$1,000 per spot per year.

During public comment,

Hayek called outdoor dining “a joint benefit” to both the city and restaurants and called for a decrease in the fee.

“The increase in meals tax as a direct result of the parklet dining is and will continue to drive revenue to the city. We ask that the fees be adjusted to reflect the joint benefit and the partnership between the restaurants offering parklet dining and the city,” Hayek said.

Mayor Justin Wilson clarified that while her request is valid and will be discussed in depth at a later date, it was not directly related to the docket item council would be voting on that day.

Vice Mayor Amy Jackson moved to approve the extension and Councilor John Chapman seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

–oanderson@alextimes.com

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Citations increased for heavy vehicles

Council moves to crackdown on illegally parked vehicles

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

Alexandria is cracking down on heavy vehicles that park illegally on public streets by imposing a new ordinance that raises fines on offenders.

City Council voted on Saturday to increase fines on vehicles more than 12,000 pounds or 30 feet long that park for more than two hours on public streets adjacent to commercial business areas. Fines will now be \$100 for the first violation, \$250 for the second violation and \$350 for the third violation. Any subsequent violation will result in an immobilization boot.

“Notwithstanding any other section of the City Code, referenced or otherwise, penalties of this section

may escalate and ultimately may include immobilization or removal whether or not the previous penalty fines have been paid,” the new ordinance reads.

The approval follows months of resident complaints, after a March 2021 amendment to add a new infraction category failed to stop heavy vehicle parking.

During public comment resident Mindy Lyle expressed frustration about recent heavy vehicle parking in the West End, specifically on Pickett Street.

“This morning there were 29 trucks, including trailers not attached to a cab and cabs not attached to a trailer. There was not a single ticket,” Lyle said. “Before you say this is the weekend and the weather is awful, just know that one truck has been in the same spot for

three weeks, four others for at least two weeks, a food truck for over a month and a trailer for at least a month. ... Just think of the time it would take to get these trucks moved in the event of a fire.”

Councilor Sarah Bagley suggested during council discussion the possibility of putting up temporary signage while the city is waiting for permanent signage to arrive.

“Since we are so keen to aggressively deploy, potentially have [the updates] in our parking enforcement’s software as of Monday, [is] there an interim flyer, interim cardboard production? ... I wouldn’t want the delay of the aggressive enforcement to be because there’s a six-week backlog on signage,” Bagley said.

Alex Block, a planner with the Department of Trans-

portation and Environmental Services, said that the city posted temporary signage in high traffic areas when it first adopted the ordinance. Staff has proposed placing additional signs “to make sure that the trucks are well aware of the increased fines,” he said. There will also be announcements on social media.

According to City Manager James Parajon, the policy will go into effect as soon as possible.

“I think it’s very clear what the intent of the council is and we’ll act as fast as we can to aggressively pursue that illegal activity,” Parajon said.

“I don’t want to see this wait a month for us to implement. I know we have the ability to do it right away so whatever communications need to go out, let’s make sure we get those out quickly,”

“ I hope we’re doing this to the full extent of the ordinance. If we have the capacity to boot and tow, let’s make sure that we’re doing that.”

– Alyia Gaskins, councilor

Councilor Alyia Gaskins said. “... I hope we’re doing this to the full extent of the ordinance. If we have the capacity to boot and tow, let’s make sure that we’re doing that.”

Vice Mayor Amy Jackson made a motion to approve the policy change, with a second from Councilor John Chapman. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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PHOTO/OLIVIA ANDERSON

Matt & Tony's All Day Kitchen & Bar is named after owner Matt Sloan and his great-grandfather Anton "Tony" Schabas.

Matt and Tony's opens for business

New Del Ray eatery features all-day brunch

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

Anton "Tony" Schabas immigrated to the United States in 1908 after working as a cook on a German ship – and then jumping off its side while anchored near New Jersey when labor restrictions prevented those onboard from leaving. The Austrian fugitive swam to shore and subsequently built a life for himself as a pastry chef, working over the years as an instructor at upscale hotels and for notable clients, including President John F. Kennedy.

A presidential candidate at the time, Kennedy held a campaign event for which Schabas made rye bread. Upon trying the bread, Kennedy dubbed it "the best rye bread he ever had," according to Schabas' grandson, Matt Sloan. Once he was elected president in 1961, Kennedy

requested that Schabas send it to the White House on a regular basis.

It's stories like these and Schabas' overall legacy that inspired Sloan's own interest in the restaurant industry, which he's been working in since age 18. On Wednesday, Sloan opened a new Del Ray eatery called Matt & Tony's – an eponymous nod to his late great-grandfather.

"I said if I ever opened a restaurant I'd want to name it after him because it's a cool story and [it's] interesting to me, and it's fun to tell," Sloan said. "My dad and I would spend years talking about, 'Where was he [at this point] again?' or 'When did he make this famous bread?' And so just growing up we just told the stories. Especially when I got into the industry, I always was so curious just how his accomplishments went."

Matt & Tony's, located at 1501 Mt. Vernon Ave., had its

soft opening last weekend, but for Sloan, the process leading up to it started years ago in Michigan, where he was raised and where he studied business and hospitality.

Upon later relocating to the D.C. area, Sloan worked with Matchbox Food Group, Daikaya Group and Born Hospitality. He then worked with Alexandria Restaurant Partners for various businesses, including Ada's on the River and Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza & Tap.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Sloan, like many people, reflected on his values, priorities and long-term goals. With a nudge of encouragement from his wife Tina, Sloan decided to take the leap toward one of his childhood dreams: opening a restaurant of his own.

"With COVID, I think everybody was rethinking what they want to do with their time and their lives,"

Tina Sloan said. "This was such a longtime dream, this is really Matt's baby. It's something we've been talking about for years."

Aware of Sloan's aspira-

tions, Dave Nicholas, Scott Shaw and David Clapp from ARP told him about an empty Del Ray building they owned that was once the old Fire-Flies restaurant and, most recently, Charlie's on the Avenue. According to Sloan, ARP didn't have time to run another business because it had just opened Barca Pier & Wine Bar, but thought he would be a perfect fit for a restaurant along Mount Vernon Avenue.

Sloan drove by to check it out and was instantly hooked.

"After I saw it, I was like, 'This would be awesome,'" Sloan said. "I always wanted to be in a neighborhood spot, I wanted to know all my neighbors. It's a great spot."

Sloan locked down the location and spent the next few months ironing out the details. Offering an approachable atmosphere and all-day brunch, for example, were just a few of the aspects he prioritized when conceptualizing the space.

He also wanted to restructure the building into something more contemporary. This included adding glass to

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PHOTO/FRANCESCA CALISTI

Owner Matt Sloan and chef Todd Miller.

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the already existing vestibule to “create something nice and elevated, but still comfortable” as well as altering the bar area by implementing overhangs and swapping out tiles.

“[We wanted] to just make a cool, different vibe that Del Ray didn’t have yet,” Sloan said, attributing much of the renovation’s success to designer David Chennault, who is also responsible for designing The Majestic Cafe in Old Town.

As Sloan puts it, Chennault helped to “really transform the space with the story of Matt & Tony’s.”

Another helping hand with incorporating the eatery’s theme belongs to chef Todd Miller, who, like Schabas, specializes in pastries. Many of Schabas’ recipes, such as his biscuits and breakfast bread, are featured on the menu and made in-house from scratch. Schabas’ legendary rye bread recipe is still in the works but “not quite ready” yet, Sloan said.

The menu also features highlights like a cornflake crusted French toast made

with maple-praline syrup and strawberries; sweet potato ricotta donuts topped with warm spices and cinnamon caramel; and scotch eggs wrapped in chicken chorizo, breaded with panko bread crumbs and drizzled with chimichurri mayonnaise.

For a healthier alternative, there are also crispy Brussel sprouts with hot honey and charred lemon, as well as various salads, including the apple fennel and the gem lettuce caesar, which is served with rye croutons, shaved parmesan and a soft boiled egg. And those who are gluten-free might also be interested in trying the masa pancakes, which Tina Sloan called “oddly satisfying” because of the balance of savory and sweet flavors.

“It’s a very simple dish. We just want good food, so it’s not overly complicated,” Sloan said.

The whole process has been a learning experience for Sloan, who said he’s most familiar with customer service and front of house operations. He’s worked closely with the kitchen crew to fill in the gaps, tweak the menu and make any final touches in time for opening.



PHOTO/FRANCESCA CALISTI

For a healthier option, Matt & Tony’s offers various salads such as the apple fennel or the gem lettuce caesar, topped with rye croutons, shaved parmesan and a soft boiled egg.

“We’re just making sure that the menu gives options. We can always build and grow the menu, but giving options to the community [and] also stuff that we know we can execute and be delicious is a big part of it,” Sloan said.

Some of the notes and changes came from friends and family in attendance at last weekend’s soft opening, who filled out postcards – which Tina Sloan had

reprinted from letters Schabas wrote – with feedback about their experience at Matt & Tony’s.

“One lady was like, ‘I’m going to need a few more postcards and another pen,’” Sloan said. “It was a lot of positives, and some things to work on. But you gotta take that stuff. That’s what it’s for: to practice, to learn from your mistakes and to get better.”

Brimming with a mixture

of both nerves and excitement, Sloan indicated that he’s mostly just proud of finally realizing a longtime dream and that he looks forward to the future of the restaurant and honoring his great-grandfather’s legacy.

“It’s coming along. I can’t wait,” he said.

Matt & Tony’s is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

-oanderson@alextimes.com



PHOTO/FRANCESCA CALISTI

The all-day brunch menu includes highlights like the New Mexican skillet and the cornflake crusted french toast. Patrons can also try drinks like the peach tea julep and the Penicillin sour, featured here.



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Tying the Knot



COURTESY PHOTO

City Councilor Kirk McPike and Cantor Jason Kaufman with their beagle, Punky during their engagement photo shoot.

From crossing paths to joining lives

City Councilor Kirk McPike and Cantor Jason Kaufman share their wedding story

Sometimes the best love stories don't start with love at first sight, but after vaguely recognizing each other following a prior run-in.

Technically, City Councilor Kirk McPike and Cantor Jason Kaufman's first date was in February 2016, but they had unknowingly met eight months beforehand at a fundraising event for then presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

On the official date, Kaufman instantly recalled that in June 2015 he tried to talk to Congressman Mark Takano (D-CA), but McPike, Takano's chief of staff, wouldn't let him because Takano was about to step onstage to speak.

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

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Tying the Knot



COURTESY PHOTO

The couple dated for several years before tying the knot in 2019.

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“[At the event we were] pretty much standing next to each other and on the date I realized, ‘Oh, I recognized him from that!’” Kaufman said.

He didn’t reveal this tidbit to McPike until later on, nor his immediate inkling that the two would ultimately end up together.

“I knew we were going to get married as soon as we met,” Kaufman said. “That’s not a joke. I really did know that.”

In the meantime, though, the couple kept seeing one another, gradually laying down the bricks of what eventually became the foundation of their relationship. Much of their early dating experience included watching lots of Marvel movies and closely following the 2016 election.

Aside from the results of that election, which McPike referred to as “scarring,” the relationship’s nascent phase was fairly smooth sailing, but McPike recalled one notable hiccup early on that involved Kaufman meeting his dog, Punky.

“Jason came over to my place for dinner and she was in a mood. She’s a very friendly dog, but she was kind of stand offish towards him,” McPike said. Punky warmed up to Kaufman after that initial meeting, and the three quickly grew close.

Things were going so well,

in fact, that Kaufman decided election night in November 2018 would be the perfect time to propose. The couple was at an event supporting San Antonio, Texas congressional candidate Gina Ortiz Jones. She had previously been endorsed by Equality PAC, a nonprofit organization Takano co-chairs that supports openly gay candidates.

However, Jones did not win the election, which cast a somber shadow over the room and threw a wrench in Kaufman’s plans.

“Kirk didn’t understand why I was so upset,” Kaufman said.

“It was already strange because we were winning the majority, my boss [was] going to be the chair of the veterans committee, but I’m embedded in a campaign that’s losing, which is awkward, and then Jason seems even more upset about it [and] I didn’t quite get it,” McPike added.

Kaufman, meanwhile, quickly realized while watching Jones concede that he would need to pivot. About two weeks after election night, he showed up at McPike’s apartment with cupcakes in tow – one of which held a proposal ring inside.

One year later, on Oct. 26, 2019, the couple married at Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, overlooking the Air Force Memorial. The ceremony was cherry blossom-themed, filled with specially made yamakas

and officiated by Kaufman’s friend, Rabbi Melissa Simon. Takano read several passages from the Obergefell v. Hodges Supreme Court decision that legalized gay marriage in 2015.

“It was clearly written to be read at weddings,” McPike said.

As a cantor at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, Kaufman knows a thing or two about leading events like weddings, funerals and bar mitzvahs. He said relinquishing that sense of control for his own wedding was at times difficult, but made easier by the fact that the marriage officiant was a close friend with whom he attended seminary.

“It was super interesting and at times challenging not to be officiating at my own wedding. Working with a friend was so wonderful. ... She did a beautiful job,” Kaufman said.

There was also the task of designing an interfaith wedding that incorporated Jewish traditions as well as McPike’s Texas roots and Kaufman’s New York roots. They accomplished this through various personal touches such as creating a cocktail hour playlist filled with John Williams music from some of their favorite movies.

“We wanted the wedding to really be representative of both of us, which I think it was in lots of little small ways,” Kaufman said. “... It was a Jewish wedding, but we worked to make sure it was as expansive and inclusive as possible, which was something that was important to both of us.”

Another goal was to forge genuine connections with every person they hired for the wedding. Indeed, the wedding chef later joined the couple’s synagogue, the wedding planner attended one of Kaufman’s concerts and the videographer captured McPike’s City Coun-

cil campaign launch.

While planning the memory table, Kaufman was upset to learn that he didn’t have a single photo of just him and his late grandmother, only one with the two of them

surrounded by other people. As a surprise gift, the couple’s wedding photographer photo-shopped the group photo to make it look like it was just

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Tying the Knot

PROFILE

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Kaufman and his grandmother sitting next to each other.

"It's just something that always puts a smile on my face," Kaufman said, looking back. "We really wanted to like all the people who were part of the day and two years later I still love them all and would recommend them to anyone."

At the end of the big day, they handed out party favors of "campaign buttons" made from the couple's engagement photo shoot. The buttons say "McPike Kaufman 2019" with an American flag and show the couple gazing into the distance.

"We thought they looked so much like campaign photos so we had the idea to turn them into buttons," McPike said.

Politics has played a significant role in the couple's relationship, from that initial first meeting at the Clinton fundraising event to their serendipitous wedding date on Oct. 26,

2019, which also happens to be Clinton's birthday. It wasn't intentional – the date was the only Saturday that worked with their schedule – but the couple did invite Clinton, though she did not actually attend the wedding.

When it comes to politics, McPike said that he and Kaufman are very aligned.

"Good thing we agree," McPike laughed. "Being in the D.C. area and with me being chief of staff to a member of congress, it was sort of inevitable that that would all be part of the deal. Jason's had to do a lot of door knocking, first with me on various races, and then for me."

McPike was elected to Alexandria City Council in November 2021 and the process leading up to it involved many hours of campaigning. Kaufman, who worked on the campaign team, said that he was not only happy to help, but endlessly inspired by his husband's dedication.



COURTESY PHOTO

McPike and Kaufman handed out "campaign buttons" as party favors at their wedding.

"I worked hard for his campaign, but the reason it was easy to work hard for his campaign is because nobody worked harder than Kirk. If I was putting in 10 hours, it was because he was putting in 24 hours," Kaufman said.

And Kaufman's schedule isn't exactly empty either. In addition to leading services at Beth El Hebrew as a cantor, during the pandemic Kaufman recorded and live streamed a full concert from their living

room to raise money for ACT for Alexandria's COVID-19 relief fund.

"He spent so long working to get everything right with his guitar and music and the singing. They raised a significant amount of money for the charity and helped our city as we were entering a really tough period," McPike said.

Between both men's jobs and myriad responsibilities, time is a commodity and quality time with one another isn't always an option. Therefore, Kaufman and McPike rely on text messaging and phone calls to check in when they can't be together.

"We're always communicating. We're never not communicating. There are some days where we spend more physical time together than others, but there's never a day where we're not in close communication, [saying] 'Hey, what do you think about this? What do you think about that?'" Kaufman said.

But when they are together, date nights often include home-cooked meals. McPike, who Kaufman called an "excellent chef," most enjoys making French, Italian and Chinese food. For Valentine's

Day this year, McPike provided Kaufman with a list of countries to choose from and he made a dish from whatever country Kaufman selected. The winner was Taiwan, and the dish was Mongolian beef.

In terms of what makes their relationship work, both pointed to fostering trust, having independently robust careers and, of course, Punky the beagle. Yet maybe there was also something more intangible that caused their paths to cross, starting with the event in 2015 and then throughout the course of the relationship.

For example, Kaufman used to work in Alexandria but lived in D.C. and McPike lived in Alexandria but worked in D.C.

"We would wave to each other on the bridge every morning as we were driving [to work]," McPike said.

Perhaps more uncanny is that their very first summer as a couple, McPike, who is Irish, had a trip to Israel, and Kaufman, who is Jewish, had a trip to Ireland.

"It's kind of funny," Kaufman said. "It was meant to be like that."

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Tying the Knot

How to keep your wedding local



Support Alexandria's businesses when planning your big day

BY REBECCA DOSER

It's no secret that Alexandria is an unparalleled wedding destination with its historic charm, red brick architecture and stunning waterfront views, but in 2022, engaged couples are looking for even more than a picturesque setting. Many duos are striving to support and promote local businesses more than ever, while also seeking vendors that represent their respective communities.

In Alexandria, couples can discover everything from unique wedding venues and trendy local hair salons to top-notch catering companies and buzz-worthy bakeries – all just minutes from the nation's capital. Read on for a quick and easy guide to organizing your wedding logistics in Alexandria.

Unusual venues

Venues like Building Momentum's charming rustic pergola in The Garden or the new ALX Community Atrium's rooftop space on South Washington Street make for an authentic celebration in Alexandria. If you're seeking all the charm the city has to offer, consider an open-air spring or summer wedding aboard the Cherry Blossom Riverboat via City Cruises anchored by Hornblower with spectacular views of the Washington, D.C. skyline. Secret gardens throughout Old Town like the Magnolia Terrace at the historic Carlyle House, the sprawling lawns of River

Farm or the tranquil garden adorned with iconic magnolias at The Rectory on Princess Street are whimsical locations for your big day.

Local favors and gifts

Duos can enhance their focus on supporting small businesses by shopping for one-of-a-kind party favors or gifts for bridal and groomsmen parties at the newly opened Shop Made in VA on King Street. Treat your bridal party to gorgeous glassware from The Hour Shop's Modern Home Bar collection or gift a DIY kit, workshop experience or on-trend home décor gift from AR Workshop.

The B.E.S.T. Gift Shop, a newly opened shop in Old Town promoting and supporting artisans with disabilities from across the U.S., boasts a wide array of wedding keepsakes such as scarves, jewelry, soaps and candles. There are many independent boutiques and shops throughout Alexandria to add a local touch to all your bridal gift needs.

Sweet treats

Individual servings have been trending for weddings ever since the pandemic started and will remain a mainstay for 2022 weddings and events. Do away with the traditional wedding cake and try out some Instagram-worthy individually served delights.

Hire Goodies Frozen Custard & Treats and treat your guests to legendary Wisconsin-style frozen

custard and nostalgic delights served out of a vintage 1952 Metro van named Gigi. Or serve up fancy divine cupcake flavors and whimsical displays from neighborhood bakeries, including Alexandria Cupcake, Lavender Moon Cupcakery and Buzz Bake-shop.

Pamper yourself

Head to Black-owned beauty oasis Hazel O. Salon, which services all hair types, perfect for you and your bridal party, or treat your roots at waterfront Salon Monte from TLC's wedding and reality TV star Monte Durham.

Choose sustainable vendors for your wedding needs with eco-friendly products and services at Latina-owned Cualtzin Salon or Holistic Hair Studio, where you can rest assured your hair is being treated with free trade and organic hair products. Once your hair is done, indulge in skin and body therapies at Fountains Day Spa, delight yourself with manicures, massages and makeovers at Sugar House Day Spa or luxuriate in day spa packages at the Lorien Hotel & Spa.

Pre- or post-wedding experiences

Kick off your wedding weekend with a riverside rehearsal dinner at Ada's on the River, BARCA Pier and Wine Bar and Hummingbird, or enjoy an Instagrammable setting along Del Ray's made-for-strolling streetscapes



REBECCA DOSER

with multiple venue options at Evening Star Café or Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza & Tap.

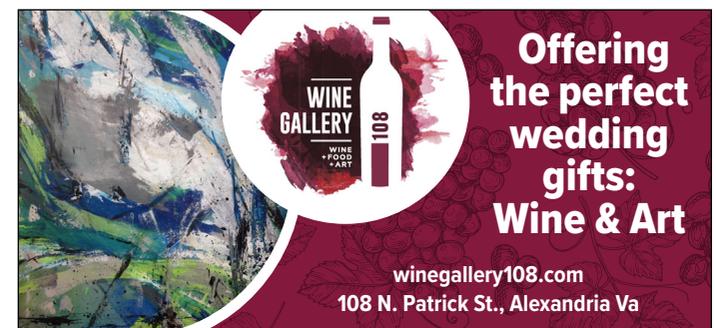
The festivities don't have to stop once your wedding day is over. Grab some fuel at newly opened Turkish Coffee Lady in Old Town or Cortado Café in the West End, then kick it up a notch with an afternoon of local beer and cider tasting alongside family and friends at one of the city's award-winning spots, such as Port City Brewing, Aslin Beer Company or Lost Boy Cider.

Complimentary wedding planning services

Contact Visit Alexandria's wedding specialist Mary Cruz at MCruz@VisitAlexVA.com for complimentary services to make your wedding day uniquely yours.

The writer is communications manager at Visit Alexandria.

For more local wedding resources, go to VisitAlexandriaVA.com/Weddings.



Tying the Knot



PHOTO/CARLYLE HOUSE

Carlyle House's gardens and gazebo provide an outdoor sanctuary in the middle of Old Town.

Historic local wedding venues

Rent George Washington's farm, a Greek revival art gallery and more

BY REBECCA DOSER

If Alexandria is known for one thing, it's the history that runs throughout almost every corner of the Port City. From the brick homes and cobblestone streets of Old Town to the Main Street Americana of

Del Ray, history is everywhere in the city, and that makes it the perfect location for couples looking to bring historic charm and style to their wedding.

A historic farm once owned by the nation's first president, an 18th century home built by Alexandria's founder and a marvel of Greek revival style are just some of the options available for those looking to rent one of Alexandria's many

historic wedding venues. Connect the city's past with your future and consider these venues for your big day.

Carlyle House

Few places are as quintessentially Alexandrian as Carlyle House. Completed in 1753, this stone mansion and garden was built by John Carlyle, a wealthy merchant and one of the city's founders. After undergoing extensive renovations in the 1970s, it now functions as a museum that is available to rent for functions, including weddings.

Carlyle House and the property's grounds provide "an urban oasis in the middle of Old Town," Randi Boord, a museum associate at Carlyle House, said.

Between the museum in the historic home, the main floor of which is open to guests for an hour during rentals, and the quiet gardens behind the home, Carlyle House provides a stylish yet low-key experience. When renting Carlyle House, couples can choose to hold their ceremony in the

tented Magnolia Terrace, the back garden with its gazebo or on the sprawling front lawn of the house. According to Boord, Carlyle House is also ideally located for out of town wedding guests.

"At just half a block from King Street and from the waterfront, it is easily walkable from nearby hotels, restaurants and parking, and we offer options for both ceremonies and intimate receptions," Boord said. "The house itself is quite special and is a beautiful example of Georgian architecture."

Event rentals at Carlyle House include access to any of the three locations for the event itself, as well as the Magnolia Terrace for use as a back-up location in case of inclement weather or for the evening portion of the event. Evening rentals include access to a small kitchen. Due to the location, only acoustic or ceremonial music is allowed, but not other amplified music.

Carlyle House offers three rental options: a two-hour ceremony rental, evening rental or one-hour microwedding rental. Rentals start at \$800 and have a maximum capacity of 65 people for an evening rental, 100 people for a two-hour ceremony rental and 25 people for a microwedding. However, only the front lawn can accommodate up to 100 people for an event.

Securing alcohol service and an ABC license is often just another item on an already long to-do list during the wedding planning process, but Carlyle House makes things easy. Alcohol service is handled by Great Blue Heron, NOVA Parks' caterers.

Location: 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria 22314

Information: CarlyleRentals@nvrpa.org, 703-549-2997

River Farm

Couples who are looking to get out of Old Town but keep the historic charm should look no further than River Farm.

Perched on a hill overlooking the Potomac, River Farm was once owned by George Washington himself and now functions as the headquarters for the American Horticultural Society. The site, located in the Fairfax County portion of Alexandria, stretches 25 acres and encompasses gardens, a blooming meadow, the historic manor, a flagstone patio and unobstructed views of the Potomac River. When couples rent River Farm, they don't get only one part of the property; they gain access to the entirety of the estate.

"I tell people that they should really tell their guests to take advantage of it because it's really neat to be able to go down in the meadow, down to the fence where you can really see the water," Leslie Bauman, rental and venue sales supervisor at River Farm, said. "We've got the big giant tree right down by the Potomac that has the bald eagles' nest and frequently the bald eagles are flying around. We have a gorgeous black walnut tree that's over 250 years old - that was George Washington's era. We have one of the biggest Osage orange trees in the country that's well over 230 years old. There's so much for people to do and see ..."

River Farm provides a lot of flexibility, allowing for micro weddings with wedding parties of six to eight people and massive events with as many as 240 people in equal measure. Rentals at River Farm last for nine hours, which includes set up and breakdown time, and prices range between \$3,900 to \$12,900,

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Tying the Knot

HISTORIC FROM | 18

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Location: 7931 E.

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Alexandria 22308

Information:

rentals@ahsgardening.
org, 703-768-5700 ext. 114

The Athenaeum

One of two Greek revival buildings in Old Town, the Athenaeum combines historic charm with contemporary art in a way that, much like a wedding, honors the past while looking to the future.

The Athenaeum is operated by the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association and typically serves as a gallery that focuses on highlighting work from local artists. The gallery is open to the public for free, but outside gallery hours the site also serves as a wedding venue that takes advantage of its iconic architecture and gallery space.

According to Veronica Szalus, executive director of the Athenaeum, the gallery's prime location at the intersection of Captain's and Gentry rows also allows couples and their guests to take advantage of Old Town's photogenic

urban landscape.

"These are two of the most sought-after locations for photographs. From a photography perspective, if you want great photos at your wedding and just people to see some of the best, most unique stuff around Old Town, our building offers that ..." Szalus said.

Rentals are not offered during gallery hours but are available from 8 a.m. to noon and 4 p.m. to midnight Thursday through Sunday and all day Monday through Wednesday. An Athenaeum rental provides full access to the building, including the main floor gallery, upstairs gallery and courtyard.

For wedding ceremonies, maximum capacity is 80 people in the gallery and 50 people in the courtyard, while seated receptions provide space for up to 80 people without a dance floor and 60 people with a dance floor. The Athenaeum is also dog friendly, meaning Fido won't have to miss out on the fun.

Rental rates are \$275 per hour on Monday through Thursday, \$445 per hour on Friday and Sunday and \$545 per hour on Saturday. For rentals on holidays, rates go up to \$600 per hour.

Location: 201 Prince St.

Information:

www.nvfaa.org/rental

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- The Rectory on Princess
 - Lee Fendall House
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- cmelloklein@alextimes.com



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www.educationaltheatrecompany.org

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www.KidCreateStudio.com

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www.schoolofrock.com/music-camps

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www.SteveAndKatesCamp.com

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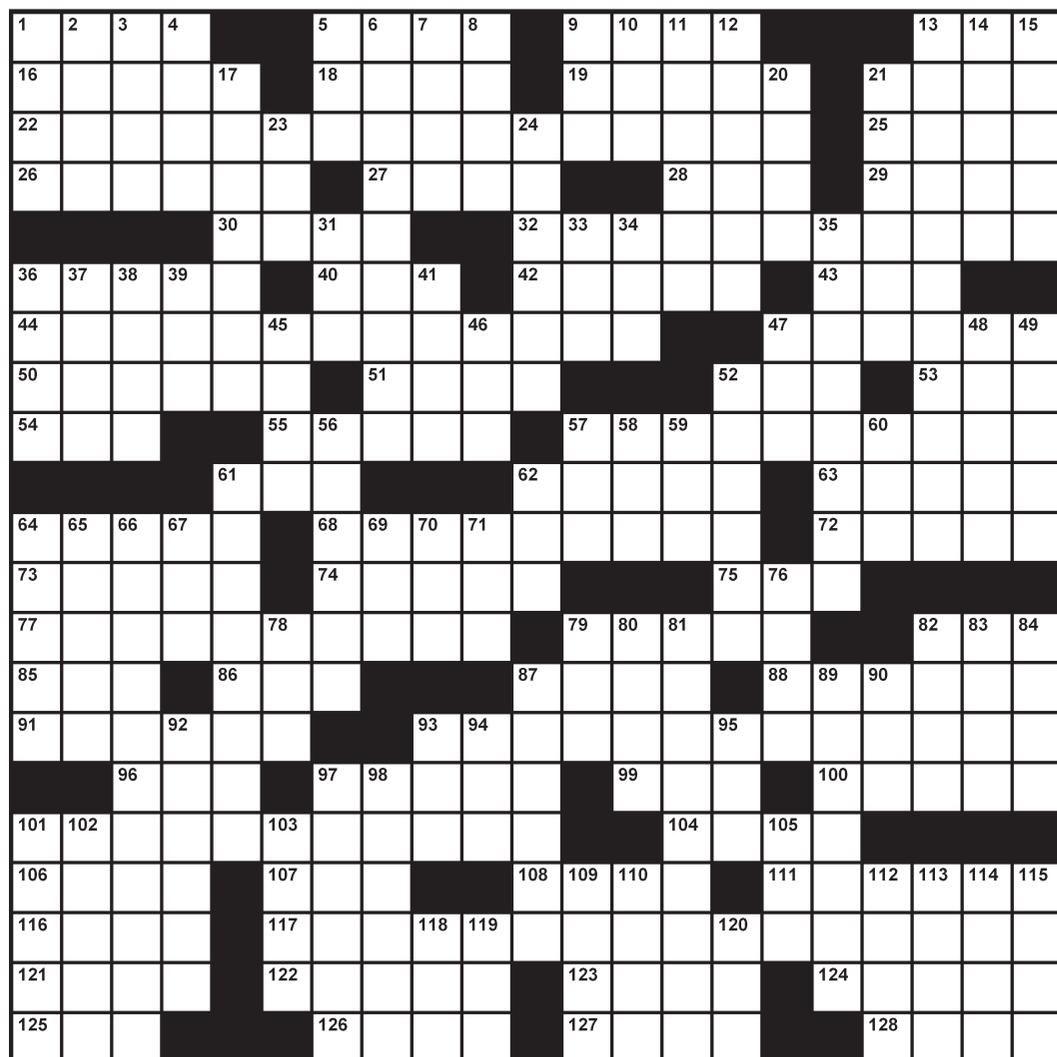
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Weekly Words



CREATIVE WRITING by Drew Schmenner, edited by David Steinberg

- ACROSS**
- 1 Org. that does stellar work?
 - 5 Bowls over
 - 9 Soaks (up)
 - 13 Fist bump
 - 16 Depravities
 - 18 Start over on
 - 19 Less tanned
 - 21 Enemy of the Jedi
 - 22 Writing about claiming lottery winnings?
 - 25 On the subject of
 - 26 Painting on the Sistine Chapel's ceiling, e.g.
 - 27 Squad
 - 28 "Today" competitor, for short
 - 29 Like flimsy evidence
 - 30 Guitarist's repeated bit
 - 32 Writing about a dot?
 - 36 Film type at Sundance
 - 40 Sass
 - 42 Titular teen of comics
 - 43 Every rough patch has one
 - 44 Writing about a land?
 - 47 Polite request to leave
 - 50 "That being said ..."
 - 51 Spend the night
 - 52 Geopolitical conflict
 - 53 Metal oiled by Dorothy
 - 54 Plopped down
 - 55 ___-party (post-prom event)
 - 57 Writing about a club's get-together?
 - 61 Canoodling on the subway, e.g.
 - 62 Attach, as a patch
 - 63 Energy measure
 - 64 Thick thing to puff
 - 68 Writing about a word that makes people smile?
 - 72 Jumpy
 - 73 Absurd
 - 74 Des Moines resident
 - 75 Big Blue co.
 - 77 Writing about a minor dispute?
 - 79 Served, as a meal
 - 82 Reggae precursor
 - 85 Wrigley Field player
 - 86 Animation collectible
 - 87 Singer-songwriter ___ Case
 - 88 Fish for a grizzly
 - 91 Good public speaker
 - 93 Writing about Queen Elsa and Olaf?
 - 96 Miracle-___
 - 97 A-sharp's equivalent
 - 99 Place to live like a pig?
 - 100 What some Romans wore over tunics
 - 101 Writing about sororities and fraternities?
 - 104 Shakespeare's "King ___"
 - 106 Wine lover's mecca
 - 107 In the past
 - 108 Instrument that tunes an orchestra
 - 111 Stacked messily
 - 116 Just barely
 - 117 Writing about Kim Kardashian's eldest?
 - 121 Nintendo consoles
 - 122 One of a tent's anchors
 - 123 Bit of pond growth
 - 124 Burn slightly
 - 125 Sun, in Spanish
 - 126 ___ vera
 - 127 Lighting may alter it
 - 128 "Halt!"
- DOWN**
- 1 Foam toy producer
 - 2 Assert
 - 3 Slaw or pasta salad
 - 4 Drinks in pint glasses
 - 5 Pop star Grande, to fans
 - 6 Served as a guinea pig, say
 - 7 Barely beat (out)
 - 8 Couch
 - 9 Relaxation destination
 - 10 Grain used in some milk
 - 11 Prepare to charge up
 - 12 Preacher's speech
 - 13 Voiced harsh criticism
 - 14 Space for clutter and cobwebs
 - 15 Ringing thing
 - 17 Skeletons in the closet, e.g.
 - 20 Peruse or skim
 - 21 Smooth and glossy

DEATH NOTICES

HAWORTH P. BROMLEY (74), of Alexandria, Feb. 18, 2022

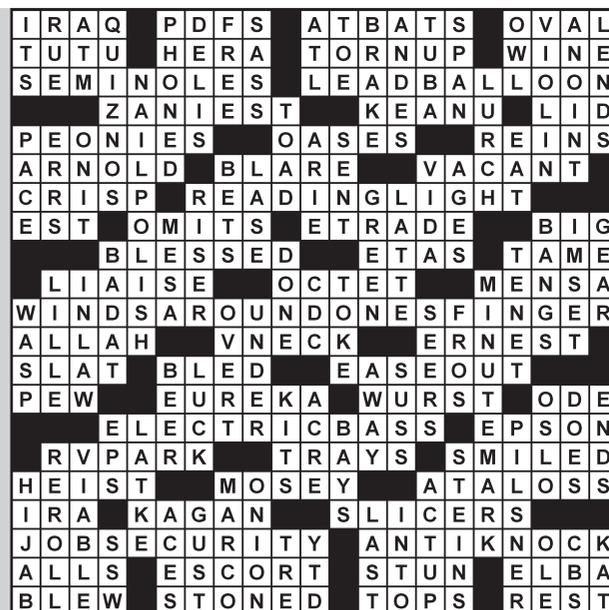
ROBERT HUGHES JR. (88), of Alexandria, March 2, 2022

TIMOTHY O'BRIEN (68), of Alexandria, March 11, 2022

MARY SHIPMAN (76), formerly of Alexandria, March 2, 2022

DAVID A. WHITE (51), formerly of Alexandria, March 7, 2022

Solutions from last week



- 23 French pronoun Miss Piggy uses
- 24 Hire
- 31 Buzzing picnic pest
- 33 Where Scandinavia is (Abbr.)
- 34 Way cool
- 35 Eddie Vedder's band
- 36 Puts frosting on
- 37 PBS science show
- 38 Tune for two
- 39 Lodging in Cincinnati?
- 41 "SNL" star Davidson
- 45 Word before "trip" or "warrior"
- 46 Matchbox toy
- 47 Goat's bleat
- 48 Lasses
- 49 Hitting all the right notes
- 52 Perform without practice
- 56 9-Down treatment involving a mask
- 57 "What did I tell you?"
- 58 Night ___ (no early bird)
- 59 Dove sound
- 60 Triumphed
- 61 One who slices and dices
- 62 Nine-digit ID
- 64 Networking giant
- 65 Run up, as expenses
- 66 Trash holder
- 67 Name found twice in "Panama Canal"
- 69 Compete in a sack race, say
- 70 Female sheep
- 71 Corn portion
- 76 Pear variety
- 78 For each
- 79 Red, flat-topped hat
- 80 Squeezes (out)
- 81 "Hold on to my hand!"
- 82 Self-satisfied
- 83 Hawaiian coffee region
- 84 Crawling picnic pests
- 87 "Come back later"
- 89 Gendered term for a performer
- 90 Bathroom, in Britain
- 92 Walks (on)
- 93 Winter bug
- 94 Pickup truck brand
- 95 Affirmative at sea
- 97 Capital of Colombia
- 98 Like a design featuring roses
- 101 Nibbles persistently
- 102 3:2, for example
- 103 Food drive donations
- 105 Word of discovery
- 109 Ray of light
- 110 Norwegian capital
- 112 Flea market caveat
- 113 Breathe quickly
- 114 Waffle brand
- 115 Like Barry White's voice
- 118 Bout ending, for short
- 119 Second half of a giggle
- 120 Legal notebook

Times Living

Alexandria Celebrates Women

A band of brothers and sisters

BY GAYLE CONVERSE AND
PAT MILLER

They are mothers, wives, sisters, daughters and grandmothers. They are factory workers, medical personnel and professional ballerinas. They are on the front lines for democracy in Ukraine.

According to CNN, 15% of Ukrainians currently fighting Russia are women. Many are not officially members of the Ukrainian military.

Women have long been considered incapable of fighting alongside men, yet women around the world have been active combatants for as long as wars have existed, including on the North American continent before our nation began.

During the American Revolution, women served as nurses, spies, scouts and cooks, and some chose to hide their gender to function as soldiers on the battlefields. The reasons varied: Women took up arms to protect their homes or aspired to fight alongside their husbands, fathers, sons and brothers.

The reasons remained the same – with the addition of financial incentives – almost 100 years later. A woman disguised as a man in the Union Army could make almost double that of the

average servant. As many as 1,000 women disguised themselves as men and enlisted in both Confederate and Union legions. Women like Rosetta Wakeman, who joined the 153rd New York Volunteer Infantry as Lyons Wakeman, weren't legally allowed to fight in the American Civil War. Wakeman served on guard duty in Alexandria before moving to the front in 1864 to fight in the Red River Campaign.

According to the Smithsonian, enlistment physical exams were simplistic. Since adolescent boys were fighting on both sides, it was relatively easy for a woman to pass as a young soldier. By cutting her hair, binding her breasts, wearing loose male clothing and rubbing dirt on her face, a woman in this era had a good chance of succeeding with her masquerade – unless she was revealed when treated for injuries. To enhance the deception, a number of women adopted behaviors such as cursing and spitting tobacco. Forms of identification were almost non-existent. To join the ranks, an alias like Wakeman's was all that was necessary.

Because women resorted to clandestine methods to enlist for battle, the exact number

who served in the Civil War and American Revolution is unknown.

Today, women may enlist as themselves. A Huffington Post report includes a sampling of major milestones for women in the military:

- 1917 to 1918: U.S. women were officially permitted to join the military. During the last two years of World War I, 33,000 women joined as nurses and support staff.

- 1941 to 1945: Four hundred thousand women served at home and abroad in non-combat roles during World War II.

- 1948: The Women's Armed Services Integration Act entitles women to veteran's benefits and grants them permanent, regular and reserve status in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force.

- 1975: Women were permitted to enter U.S. military academies as students for the first time.

- 2013: The U.S. Department of Defense announces all military positions would open to women by 2016 – creating the opportunity for women to fill 220,000 combat positions.

In November 2008, Ann E. Dunwoody, born at Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, became the first woman in military

history to achieve the rank of four-star general. During her 38-year career, Dunwoody's commands included the Military Traffic Management Command/Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command in Alexandria. She officially retired in 2012. The Foundation for Women Warriors quotes General Dunwoody: "... Today, women are in combat, that is just a reality. Today, what was once a band of brothers has truly become a band of brothers and sisters."

In 2020, the Council on Foreign Relations found that women represented 16% of U.S. enlisted forces and 19% of the officer corps. Thousands of women have been decorated for valor and many have given their lives.

Today there are more than 100,000 women veterans in the Commonwealth. At a recent Women's History Month event hosted by Alexandria's American Legion Post 24, historic women military figures were honored – one of them being social reformer, suffragist and Alexandrian Kate Waller Barrett, who served as national president of the American Legion Auxiliary from 1922 to 1923. The George Washington Post also recognized local retired and active-duty military women.

These brave Alexandri-

ans join women around the world in defending democracy – they are indeed a "band of sisters." We thank them for their service.

The writers are founders of Alexandria Celebrates Women, a nonprofit that highlights influential women throughout the city's history. Contact them at AlexandriaCelebratesWomen@gmail.com.

VETERANS' SERVICES

The American Legion

provides services for veterans. For more information, visit valegionpost24.com.

Veterans' Crisis Hotline

For immediate confidential assistance for veterans and their families, call 1-800-273-8255 and press one or text 838255.

For veterans seeking various services or benefits:

VA benefits: 1-800-827-1000

Health care: 1-877-222-8387

Education: 1-888-442-4551

Life insurance: 1-800-669-8477

Debt management: 1-800-827-0648

Mammography hotline: 1-888-492-7844

SENIORS

Dementia Friendly Alexandria

Initiative aims to increase community safety and accessibility

BY JACKIE BARBARITO

According to the World Health Organization, there are about 50 million people living with dementia in the United States, with this number expected to increase to 80 million by 2030 and a staggering 152 million by 2050.

Dementia is a community issue that must be addressed at a community level. A dementia friendly community is informed, safe and respectful of individuals with dementia and their families, provides supportive options across community sectors and fosters quality of life. Every part of the community has a specific role in fostering meaningful access to and engagement in community life for people living with

dementia, their family and care partners.

What is Dementia Friendly America?

Dementia Friendly America is a multi-sector, national, regional, state and local collaboration seeking to advance dementia friendly communities across the United States. DFA fosters local community transformation using tools, resources and technical assistance designed to equip communities to better support people living with dementia and their care partners.

The Dementia Friendly America movement began in September 2015 following the White House Conference on Aging and is based on Minnesota's successful statewide ACT on Alzheimer's. Led by DFA, communities across the nation are taking action

and becoming more dementia friendly by leveraging tailored resources and tools for community sectors.

Dementia Friendly Alexandria

The Dementia Friendly Alexandria initiative is led by Goodwin House and the Alexandria Commission on Aging. The action team consists of individuals from nonprofit organizations that support and serve older adults, local government entities, residential care services and home care providers, in addition to volunteers who are community members and caregivers.

Dementia Friendly Alexandria's action team first came together after a call-to-action meeting with community leaders held by Goodwin House Alexandria in February 2019. Alexandria offi-

cially received the Dementia Friendly designation in late April 2019. In July 2019, Mayor Justin Wilson presented a city proclamation which called Alexandrians to take part in the Dementia Friendly initiative.

Within our first year of designation, the action team provided training to the Alexandria Police Department, Alexandria Sheriff's Office and the local AARP Chapter. The team has also held training for multiple faith communities, including Virginia Theological Seminary, Westminster Presbyterian, First Assembly of God and Meade Memorial Episcopal Church Throughout the pandemic, the team continues to meet virtually on a monthly basis and has set high goals for the upcoming year.

Our Dementia Friendly Alexandria action team

members are passionate about serving those with dementia and their caregivers. We are sharing and spreading that passion with the Alexandria community as we advance awareness of dementia and provide support to make it easier for all of us to share the experience of living with dementia.



JACKIE BARBARITO

Get involved

If you would like to schedule/attend a training or join our action team, please email Jackie Barbarito at jbarbarito@goodwinhouse.org for more information. Feel free to pass along our contact information to those who may also want to get involved.

The writer is administrator of assisted living and memory support at Goodwin House Alexandria.

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HOMES

Easy, affordable bathroom upgrades

Small changes can make a big difference

BY FAMILY FEATURES

Bathrooms are among the most popular areas for homeowners to undertake improvement projects because they can be some of the easiest rooms in the house to renovate without spending a fortune.

If you're looking to update one of the most used spaces in your home, consider these easy and cost-effective ways to give your bathroom a facelift.

Accessorize with color

There are numerous ways to create a new look without lifting any tools. Replacing linens and other soft surfaces like rugs, window treatments and shower curtains can

help brighten up your space. Adding a fresh coat of paint is another low-cost way to modify the look and feel of a space. With a variety of paint colors and finishes to choose from, you can add a splash of color as an accent or go all out to create depth and contrast.

Update cabinetry and light fixtures

Keeping your existing vanity and other bathroom cabinetry, especially if they're in good condition, can be a cheaper option than replacing all the cabinets. To create an updated look, add a different coat of stain or paint, replace the hardware and add pullout shelving or drawer dividers.

Replacing old, out-of-date



PHOTO/AMBA PRODUCTS

An easy way to transform your bathroom is by updating small elements, such as the toilet seat, faucet or showerhead.

light fixtures with modern, efficient options, including the appropriate bulb selections for each fixture, is another cost-effective way to help the space look and feel brighter.

Install a heated towel rack

Consider investing in a multi-purpose appliance to help refresh the look of your area. For example, a heated towel rack can save time and money while providing

comfort and convenience. Companies like Amba Products offer a variety of styles and finishes to fit almost any decor that produce radiant heat to gently warm and dry towels, which can save time, water and energy by not having to do laundry as often. In addition, the racks can help eliminate moisture, resulting in less growth of mold and mildew. Some freestanding models come ready to use and take as little as five minutes to set up.

Swap out decor and accessories

A quick, inexpensive way to transform your bathroom is to update the decor and other design elements. Installing a new toilet seat, faucet or showerhead and adding matching accessories, such as a toilet paper holder, shower control knobs or a toothbrush holder, can make the space feel new and interesting. For even more impact, add artwork that matches the theme of the room, greenery or floating shelving.

Add accent tile

You can create a luxurious look with your backsplash, flooring or shower by adding a pop of colorful tile. Cheaper than purchasing an entire room's worth of tile, creating a chevron or herringbone pattern in one of these oft-seen areas of the bathroom can make a fresh statement.

HOME OF THE WEEK

A roomy Colonial in College Park



COURTESY PHOTO

Left: Stately Colonial in College Park.

Middle: Bright living room perfect for entertaining or relaxing.

Right: Great room with high ceilings, fireplace, plantation shutters and French doors that lead to a screened porch.

Located in Alexandria's College Park neighborhood, this home enjoys the amenities of the Quaker Hill HOA, including an outdoor pool, walking trails around the pond and a community center.

This stately Colonial offers the luxury, convenience and amenities that today's buyers expect in a home, including five upper level bedrooms. With more than 4,700 finished

square feet, there's plenty of room to relax, work, play, study and exercise – all in the comfort of home.

The classic portico entrance leads to the open and spacious main level with both formal and informal living and dining spaces perfect for entertaining. Prepare favorite meals in the updated gourmet kitchen and enjoy casual dining in the breakfast area,

which overlooks the serene backyard and offers access to one of two decks.

There are five spacious bedrooms on the upper level, including a master suite with two walk-in closets, a gas fireplace, handsome built-ins and a spa-inspired bathroom with a soaking tub, shower and dual vanity with Carrara marble top.

The lower level offers versa-

tility with a casual recreation room with a gas fireplace and two additional rooms and a full bathroom. Outside enjoy a private oasis with lush landscaping, stone retaining walls, and flagstone patios.

An oversized two-car garage allows for parking and storage, although this home is located within steps of shopping, dining, local parks and Metro.

AT A GLANCE

Address:

1000 Dartmouth Road,
Alexandria 22314

Neighborhood:

College Park

Price: \$1,390,000

Square feet: 4700

Bedrooms: 6

Bathrooms: 4.5

Year built: 1993

Contact:

Dayna Blumel & Kerry
Adams

blumeladamsgroup@
compass.com

blumeladams.com

703-587-7841

Our View

Why transparency matters

This week is national Sunshine Week – and we don't mean spring break and the start of Daylight Savings Time, though those are surely welcome too.

Sunshine Week occurs each year in mid-March to coincide with the March 16 birthday of James Madison, whose framework formed the basis of the U.S. Constitution. It's an annual reminder of why transparency in government is so important and why the quote of another former U.S. President, Thomas Jefferson, runs at the top of our opinion page: "Where the press is free and every man is able to read, all is safe."

A free press matters. And yet the press can't do its job of keeping watch on the centers of power, mainly government, if government isn't open and transparent. Most people agree open government is important, and those holding governmental power usually claim they are transparent in their dealings. We in the press know that's often not the case.

Three examples, ranging from the national to local might make this topic more tangible:

1) During the COVID-19 pandemic, national health reporters did not have access to individual doctors and scientists within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at a time when the CDC was relaying contradictory and at times erroneous information to the public.

Kathryn Foxhall, a national open government expert who last year won the Wells Memorial Key, the Society of Professional Journalists' highest honor, has been working to stop the practice of preventing reporters from accessing individual government employees through the practice of "censorship by public information officer." In her SPJ acceptance speech Foxhall said:

"We now have over four million pandemic dead. For over two decades public health agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration, have controlled public scrutiny of themselves. Reporters are kept out of buildings, not allowed to speak to anyone without the bosses' censors, and often not allowed to speak to anyone at all."

2) The Virginia legislature just last week passed House Bill 734, which if signed by Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R-VA), will limit the media's access to criminal records, even of closed cases, reversing a bill from just last year that had given the public access to inactive criminal investigation files. This bill purports to protect victims' families from the release of sensational and hurtful photos and other materials, but it's a prime example of legislation by anecdote.

Yes, there have been instances of graphic images becoming public, which should not happen, but the public does have a right to the facts of inactive criminal cases. Now law enforcement agencies themselves get to determine what's released. Megan Rhyne, executive director of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government, testified against this bill as did the Virginia Press Association. To their credit, Alexandria's legislative delegation – State Sen. Adam Ebbin, Del. Charnielle Herring and Del. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker – all voted against H.B. 734.

3) Former Alexandria Magistrate Elizabeth Fuller was fired last fall for talking to the Alexandria Times about a closed criminal case. The reason given for Fuller's firing was that she had violated the cannons that govern magistrates' behavior, though it did not appear to us or experts we consulted that any of Fuller's actions violated the stated cannons of Virginia law.

In a convenient twist, the Supreme Court of Virginia, which oversees the state's magistrate system, in 2019 unilaterally declared

SEE OUR VIEW

| 29

Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson

Photo of the Week



PHOTO/DICK CHAIT

The Potomac River Power Station is starting to look a bit different, as all rails on the grounds were recently removed prior to the structure's planned demolition.

Your Views

Times columnists need viewpoint diversity

To the editor:

I ask that you seek a greater diversity of views among those you feature in the yellow-background columns on the weekly opinion page. The substance of recent pieces by Alexandria education leaders Mark Eaton, Meagan Alderton and Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Ed.D., leaves much to be desired. Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter's bromides on leadership offer no insight into his bail and prosecution decisions.

I was disheartened to learn that no economically disadvantaged student – or perhaps one, concealed by rounding – at my neighborhood elementary school, Naomi L. Brooks, earned a passing grade in science last year. According to the Virginia Department of Education, the share of economically disadvantaged students at Naomi Brooks who passed science declined from 47% in 2018-2019 to 0% in 2020-2021; mathematics dropped from 39% to 3%.

At Alexandria City High School, these figures decline from 56% to 26% and 58% to 28%, respectively. With no irony, the ACPS website header features "Equity for

All" in large type. We have a duty to foster educational excellence and to hold public officials accountable for the same.

Alexandria's education leaders use this platform to pay lip service to unspecified equity goals rather than leading with concrete actions addressing the gravest scandal in our city: the staggering achievement gap among our most vulnerable children.

Eaton ruminates on listening, Alderton writes vaguely about equity and Women's History Month and Hutchings offers a paean to Black History Month. All are worthy perspectives but are hardly evidence of critical thinking, self-examination or accountability. Potential factors in academic underachievement – parental engagement, the value placed on schoolwork versus social media and video games and what the late Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan called "the soft bigotry of low expectations" – go unexamined by these leaders.

I applaud the Times' motto from

SEE BLOOMFIELD

| 29

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

My View | Denise Dunbar

Repression in Ukraine

Part III of a series

BY DENISE DUNBAR

This is the third in a series of columns about the Russian invasion of Ukraine, drawing on my experiences as a Soviet analyst in the Central Intelligence Agency's Office of Leadership Analysis from 1986 to 1992, the years during which the USSR increasingly wobbled and finally collapsed.

When I was hired by the CIA in 1986, I completed a lengthy training program and started my job as analyst of the leaders of the 15 Soviet republic governments the next year. Up until then, this account had been a backwater: While broad in scope with dozens of political leaders to track, it had been relatively insignificant because most power rested in the hands of the national leadership in Moscow.

That began changing rapidly almost as soon as I began my job.

Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of "glasnost" and "perestroika" led to Soviet citizens gaining limited freedom of political speech. In the Baltic states, political dissidents began emerging and advocating for political independence.

The ability of those dissidents to protest at home was limited, but many were allowed to travel abroad, where they met with both government officials and supporters – mainly diaspora from their homelands – in an effort to gain recognition for their cause.

One of their stops was in Washington, D.C. Though not a journalist at the time, I became acquainted with a woman who was a member of the National Press Club, and she secured admission for me when Soviet dissidents began coming to Washington to speak at the Press Club.

Because of her, I was able to meet in person with the most prominent dissidents from Lithuania,

Estonia and Latvia, which helped me assess them and their organizations for the Agency. There was nothing covert about this – I went openly as a CIA employee – but it was of immense value.

The second group of Soviet republics where dissidents began cautiously advocating for greater freedom were those in the Caucasus region: Georgia, along with Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Soviet Georgia was fascinating, as the long-time head of that republic's communist party, from 1972 to 1985, was the anti-corruption reformer Eduard Shevardnadze. One of Gorbachev's most significant moves, just four months into his tenure as Soviet General Secretary, was to name Shevardnadze as Soviet foreign minister.

This was a generational shift: The 57-year-old Shevardnadze replaced hardline Andrei Gromyko, who was in his mid-70s and had been in his post for almost 30 years. The move dramatically changed Soviet foreign policy, as Shevardnadze would be one of Gorbachev's closest allies in pursuing greater tolerance in Eastern Europe along with domestic reform.

Also in 1972, the same year Shevardnadze took over in Soviet Georgia, the hardline Vladimir Shcherbitsky* became First Secretary of the communist party of Ukraine. Shcherbitsky controlled Ukraine for 17 years, the longest tenure in that post during the period of Soviet rule. Interestingly, the second longest-tenured head of the CPU was Nikita Khrushchev, who succeeded Josef Stalin as Soviet First Secretary.

Like Shevardnadze, Shcherbitsky became a member of the Soviet Politburo. Unlike his Georgian counterpart, Shcherbitsky was most emphatically not a reformer.

SEE DUNBAR



DENISE DUNBAR



Justice Matters

with Bryan Porter

Lessons in leadership, part three

BY BRYAN PORTER

This is the third in a series of columns focused on lessons I have learned during my 27 years in law enforcement. Previous columns included the first six leadership lessons.

Lesson seven: Don't use email for difficult conversations.

Who among us has not crafted an angry email and then hesitated with our finger hovering above the "send" button? An email, once sent, cannot be retrieved, and instead becomes an eternal record of your thoughts. On any number of occasions during my career, an email I sent has been misinterpreted by the recipient. Without the vocal signals inherent in a two-way conversation, context is lost in an email and the recipient may derive an entirely different message from that which was intended.

The impersonal nature of email can free the sender to be sharper with their comments than they would be in a personal conversation. It is more difficult to be angry, confrontational or snarky when sitting across the table from a living, breathing human being. The electronic distance inherent in email also may cause the recipient to feel the sender believed they did not merit the courtesy of an in-person meeting.

If circumstances require a difficult conversation, that discussion should be in person. Email may be used to schedule an in-person meeting for the conversation. Finally, patience sometimes obviates the need for the difficult conversation; in my experience, problems often work out on their own, and a day spent in reflection on how to respond to a difficulty may allow space for the difficulty to disappear altogether.

Lesson eight: Leaders look at the big picture.

Human beings are instinctively self-centered. While altruism may occasionally arise in unexpected places, most people act in ways they believe

will benefit them personally. Leaders are expected to set aside these self-serving instincts and make decisions which benefit their organizations. This requires the ability to figuratively take a step back and ponder the future implications of various courses of action.

When preparing for a murder trial, I intentionally employ this big picture process. I try to think about how each witness will be perceived by the court and what kinds of arguments might resonate with a jury. I attempt to build redundant systems into my trial plan, so if one method of getting a piece of evidence admitted is fruitless, I have a backup. In the realm of office administration, I try to consider how my decisions may affect my employees or those of other allied city agencies. I always attempt to work out unintended consequences which may flow from the various actions under consideration.

When making a policy or personnel decision, an organizational leader must cogitate on the big picture. A mental checklist is useful: How would this policy affect my unit? My bureau? Our department? But the big picture requires the leader to consider external effects as well: How would the decision affect other people in the business or public agency? Would it impact the general public? If so, in what ways?

If there's time, leaders should strive to consider the potential fallout from their decisions. They should also communicate with others who may be affected by the decision and seek their input. This tactic has the obvious benefit of making it more likely that the big picture is truly being seen. Since humans are naturally resistant to change, seeking input from those who may be affected by a policy change gives them a stake in the change and usually reduces their resistance.

Next month, I will provide the final two lessons of my top ten lessons in leadership and give some concluding thoughts.

The writer is commonwealth's attorney for Alexandria.



BRYAN PORTER

Race and racing

To the editor:

I found it interesting that State Sen. Adam Ebbin (D) opposed strict enforcement of laws against high-performance automobile noise and drag racing in our neighborhoods because those infractions, as the Times reported in its March 3 article, “Duke Street crash raises street racing concerns,” have led to over-policing of communities of color. So, to him the issue is not about peace or safety – it’s about race. There are two things that are noteworthy about this sentiment.

One is his assertion that noisy car engines and drag racing are somehow a feature of communities of color and therefore must be allowed, or at least not enforced seri-

ously. That is his first slap at racial minorities.

The second is that homeowners and families in predominantly minority neighborhoods are somehow okay with this. They, more than anyone, are adversely affected – even endangered – by these practices. To assume otherwise is just wrong.

In his statement, Ebbin showed himself a champion of his party’s condescending view that they know what is best for minorities and must “protect” them, especially the fraction who make life difficult and dangerous for the rest. To me, it’s that approach that harms communities of color.

-Jack Lichtenstein,
Alexandria

Get money out of politics

To the editor:

A shout out to local Virginia legislators, State Sen. Adam Ebbin and Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, who voted for all the campaign finance bills introduced in our General Assembly this year. After the most expensive elections in Virginia history, including an influx of out of state money funding obscure attack ads aimed at candidates of both parties, citizens know it’s past time for Virginia to move away from pay-to-play politics.

Key legislators understood this too, introducing 24 bills aimed at providing more accountability and transparency in our lax campaign finance system. Virginia is plagued by an inability to monitor and enforce exist-

ing campaign finance laws, weak disclosure regulations, a lack of contribution limits for candidates – and, most egregiously, no rules limiting the personal use of campaign donations. Consequently, Virginia places a pathetic 46th in the S.W.A.M.P. Index, a national ranking of states based on transparency and ethics regulations.

Yet at the end of the legislative session, only four campaign finance bills are still in play as many legislators used various means to block common-sense legislation aimed at making Virginia’s elected officials accountable to voters. As chair of the influential Privileges and Elections Committee, Ebbin consistently voted for every campaign finance

bill that came before his committee. In addition, Bennett-Parker, along with U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) and Virginia 8th District candidate Victoria Virasingh (D), signed our American Promise MoneyOut pledge affirming their commitment to campaign finance reform.

Recent polling results released by the Watson Center revealed that 78% of Virginians, irrespective of party, support reducing the influence of deep-pocketed donors. Maybe this won’t be the year of campaign finance reform in Virginia, but history is on our side. We are proud that our legislators are champions of good governance.

-Nancy Morgan,
coordinator, Virginia
Chapter of American Promise

Can inmates improve while jailed?

To the editor:

Courts, before and after case disposition, determine which persons are confined, and for how long, at Alexandria’s jail, the Truesdale Adult Detention Center. The same applies to the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center, which the city funds in part and appoints two of its five commissioners.

While the Alexandria Sheriff’s Office provides courthouse security and bailiffs for all proceedings, it has no role in sentencing. ASO’s responsi-

bility is the security and safety of the inmates, its sworn and non-sworn staff, other jail workers and inmates’ visitors.

While confined, inmates can deal with personal issues like substance abuse and anger, and improve their prospects for successfully reintegrating into the community – provided the length of their sentence allows for participation in a program and their frame of mind allows them to commit to a program’s goals.

The sworn deputies enable a

small cadre of non-sworn staff, assisted by volunteers, to carry out programs. Local communities of faith often provide volunteers for programs like GED and ESL classes. NOVA Community College’s Alexandria campus has even offered a few credit courses.

Other inmates focus on learning employment skills, such as earning a ServSafe food-and-beverage certificate for hospitality jobs. One member of the Sheriff’s Correctional Services Advisory Board has a

computer business and started a course teaching inmates about computers and software.

There are programs that focus on life skills, such as Decision Points, a cognitive behavior intervention program. Others address matters as basic as presenting oneself at job interviews.

Inmates can ask to join the Sober Living Unit, which has separate male and female housing units and is highly structured with mental health therapists. Narcotics & Alcoholics Anonymous focuses on 12 steps to help those who

struggle with substance abuse. HeardNOVA.org offers a writing program, complementing the facility’s library.

The Correctional Services Advisory Board was started by late Sheriff James Dunning, invigorated by now-retired Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and continued by new Sheriff Sean Casey. CSAB works with the program staff to offer advice and support.

Jail time is always punishment, but it can also be a time for self-reflection and improvement.

-Michael Strutzel,
CSAB member

DUNBAR

FROM | 27

Though born in Ukraine, Shcherbitsky was loathed there. I thought he was the worst of a repressive group of 1980s Soviet republic leaders. Shcherbitsky carried out mass arrests and treated Ukrainian dissenters with brutality – including placing them in psychiatric institutions as both punishment and deterrent – while attempting

to stamp out Ukrainian nationalism.

Shcherbitsky was not responsible for the Chernobyl nuclear disaster – the plant was built and run by the national government – but as leader of the republic where the accident occurred, he bears significant responsibility for the ensuing coverup. Shcherbitsky remained in office three more years and was eventually forced out not because

of Chernobyl but because of poor health and his resistance to Gorbachev’s perestroika. Shcherbitsky died a few months after his September 1989 removal.

I wrote a paper in 1989 on his successor, Vladimir Ivashko, a party apparatchik about whom 33 years later I remember virtually nothing, though he did become a member of the Soviet Politburo upon taking the helm in Ukraine.

The consensus was that Ivashko couldn’t possibly be as bad as Shcherbitsky. He wasn’t, but open dissent within Ukraine was still slower to develop than in the Baltic or Caucasus regions.

In an interesting twist of history, the Ukrainian Ivashko became the final Soviet General Secretary, serving for five days in August 1991 between when Gorbachev resigned following the coup

attempt and when the CPSU was dissolved on Aug. 29, 1991.

*The writer is publisher and executive editor of the Alexandria Times. She worked at the Central Intelligence Agency from 1986 to 1992. *The Russian spelling of Shcherbitsky and Ivashko’s names are deliberately used, both because this is how we spelled them at the CIA and because, despite being born in Ukraine, they were Soviet apparatchiks.*

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Women fundraise for healthcare

When a group of women led by Julia Johns met to organize the Alexandria Infirmary in December 1872, community health care took a big step forward. Through the efforts of this group, called the Board of Lady Managers, townspeople were no longer required to go to Richmond or Washington to receive hospital care.

The Board of Lady Managers also opened a nursing school in 1894. While supporting the hospital, the nursing school was a pathway for women to become educated in a period when opportunities were limited. The Board of Lady Managers marshalled community support and administered the Infirmary, later called Alexandria Hospital, and nursing school, until 1941.

The hospital changed loca-

tions frequently until 1917. Thanks to the Alexandria Library Special Collections, we have access to the 1918 Annual Report that looks back on that year. The most notable occurrence for the hospital in 1917 was the opening of their facility on the 700 block of Duke Street, which would serve until the late 1960s. Also in 1917, doctors and a dietitian were added to staff, and the nursing school added a massage class to its curriculum. Total expenditures were \$16,077.67. The largest cost was for groceries, recorded as \$5,865.38.

Within the new purpose-built hospital facility, many rooms were furnished exclusively through donations. Throughout its history, the hospital has been able to thrive due to the donations it

received from an enthusiastic Alexandria.

The Annual Report notes two unnamed donors. One furnished two operating rooms with state-of-the-art facilities, and the other donor provided everything for the "Rest Room," a kind of lounge. As the hospital wards were segregated at this time, the Colored Citizen's Association raised \$500 and furnished two four-bed wards for African American men and women respectively.

The 1918 Annual Report acknowledged services donated by Miss Brooke, notary public and Mr. Washington, attorney. The National Needle Work League donated 43 unspecified garments.

The report also included an accounting of Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts of cash,

food, clothing and other items to the hospital, traditional donation events that date back to the hospital's earliest years.

Some examples of Thanksgivings donations by individuals, organizations and a local business include: Mrs. G. P. Anderton, who donated one box of Pettijohn's breakfast cereal, two boxes of corn flakes, two boxes of rolled oats and two oranges; and St. Paul's Sunday School, which donated apples, sugar and salt. The King's Daughters Circle Del Ray gave 15 cans of vegetables, two quarts of beans and seven jars of fruit and jelly, while the Constantinople Fruit Store donated one bunch of bananas.

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

OUR VIEW

FROM | 26

itself exempt from state sunshine laws. This action limits the ability of media organizations like the Times

from finding out what actually happens when a whistleblower like Fuller is fired.

The conservative legal organization Judicial Watch

has sued the Virginia Supreme Court on Fuller's behalf, arguing that her First and Fourteenth Amendment rights were violated. We hope the Virginia Supreme

Court's self-exemption is also addressed.

Sunshine laws are important. They need to be strengthened at every level of government.

BLOOMFIELD

FROM | 26

Thomas Jefferson: "Where the press is free and every man is able to read, all is safe." I'm

not familiar with the context but I'm guessing Jefferson's notion of "safety" referred to the liberties of the typical citizen, not to the job secu-

rity of public officials. People who already hold positions of power in our city should not be granted space for comfortable puff pieces in these pages.

I hope you will consider ways to recommit the Times to its important role as our independent hometown newspaper.

-Kevin Bloomfield, Alexandria

Weekly Poll

Last Week

What do you think about City Council's decision to charge Alexandria restaurants fees for using on-street parking spaces for outdoor dining?

36% I think restaurants should be able to use parking spaces for outdoor dining, but they should pay.

36% Restaurants shouldn't have to pay the city to use parking spaces for outdoor dining.

26% I'm against using parking spaces for outdoor dining.

1% I'm not sure.

This Week

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

What is your experience with the Ballyshaners?

A) I am or have been a member or volunteer.

B) I've attended the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

C) I've attended the Irish Festival.

D) I've attended multiple events they've put on.

E) Who are the Ballyshaners?

CALENDAR

MARCH 19

ASO PRESENTS BRANDENBURG, VIVALDI & TANGO Members of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, led by Music Director James Ross, will present an evening of music by Bach, Vivaldi and Piazzolla in St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Hear the ASO's Baroque renditions with principals from the ASO featured as soloists. **Time:** 7:30 to 9 p.m. **Location:** 228 S. Pitt St. **Information:** <https://alexsym.org/performance/brandenburg/>

MARCH 20

PAINT YOUR PET AT BARKHAUS Tune into your creative mind and relax while enjoying a glass of wine at this Paint Your Pet event. Prior to the event, each painter will send a good closeup photo of their pet and artists will sketch each pet's likeness onto a canvas. When the painters arrive, their canvases will be ready to paint. Painting coach Sherry Kendall will guide each group step-by-step through the painting process. **Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Location:** 529 E. Howell Ave. **Information:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/paint-your-pet-at-barkhaus-tickets-251649549577>

CARLYLE HOUSE AT 45: HIDDEN HOUSE REEMERGES OPEN HOUSE Explore Carlyle House's reemergence through the "Hidden House Reemerges" exhibit. During a self-guided tour, visitors will learn about some of the early museum history, see photographs of the restoration and admire some of the objects found by the restoration team. **Time:** Noon to 4 p.m. **Location:** 121 N. Fairfax St. **Information:** <https://www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park/events>

MARCH 24

LECTURE BY BRUCE RAGSDALE George Washington spent more of his working life farming than he did at war or in political office. Learn about his role as a farmer during a lecture by Bruce Ragsdale, author of "Washington at the Plow: The Founding Farmer and Question of Slavery." The event is part of the 2022 Michelle Smith Lecture Series. **Time:** 7 p.m. **Location:** 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway **Information:** <https://www.visitalexandriava.com/event/lecture-by-bruce-ragsdale%3a-author-of-washington-at-the-plow/18687/>

LECTURE BY LANITA BERGER, Ph.D. Join the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project for a lecture with LaNita Berger on South African artist Irma Stern's complex life and work. Berger will discuss her recently published book, "Irma Stern and the Racial Paradox of South African Modern Art: Audacities of Color," which explores how Stern became South Africa's most prolific and controversial painter. A discussion with Rabbi David Spinrad, a member of the ACRP Steering Committee, will follow the lecture. **Time:** 7 to 9 p.m. **Location:** Virtual **Information:** <https://www.alexandriava.gov/historic-alexandria/celebrate-womens-history-month-with-historic-alexandria>

MARCH 26

CIVIL WAR WOMEN'S DAY AT FORT WARD Learn about women's dress, skills and contributions during the Civil War from historical interpreters, who will present talks, displays and demonstrations throughout the day. The interpreters will explore women's roles on the home front, in factories, in camp, on the battlefield, and in soldiers' aid societies and relief efforts for both armies during the war. **Time:** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Location:** 4301 W. Braddock Road **Information:** <https://www.visitalexandriava.com/event/civil-war-womens-day-at-fort-ward/18726/>

APRIL 2

ALX DOG WALK The inaugural two-mile ALX Dog Walk will take place along the Waterfront Walk in Old Town. Walkers and their pooches will head toward the Robinson Landing Pier, where they will parade by a judging panel for prizes. Then they will to the park for an awards celebration hosted by Monte Durham of "Say Yes to the Dress Atlanta," and music, dogs, treats and more. **Time:** 7 to 11 a.m. **Location:** 100 Madison St. **Information:** <https://www.visitalexandriava.com/event/alx-dog-walk/18491/>

CHERRY BLOSSOM EXHIBIT AT TORPEDO FACTORY Starting today and running until May 1, art lovers can stop by the Torpedo Factory Art Center to view floral art displayed on all three floors. Participating artists will display their most colorful spring and cherry-blossom-inspired works in their studios. Masks are required for all visitors regardless of vaccination status. **Time:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. **Location:** 105 N. Union St. **Information:** www.visitalexandriava.com/event/cherry-blossom-exhibition-



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PUBLIC NOTICE



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA,
VIRGINIA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT FY 2023 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE 2022-2026 CONSOLIDATED PLAN FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The City of Alexandria's Draft One-Year Action Plan ("Draft Action Plan") for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 for Housing and Community Development and an Draft Amendment to the 2022-2026 Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development ("Draft Amendment") will be available for a 30-day comment period beginning on or about Monday, March 21, 2022 and ending Friday, April 22, 2022.

Persons wishing to comment on the Draft Action Plan or Draft Amendment may do so either in writing and/or by providing testimony at the public hearing to be held before the City Council on Saturday, April 23, beginning at 9:30 a.m., located in the City Council Chambers, second floor of the Alexandria City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia.

The City's Draft Action Plan has been developed in accordance with guidelines set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Draft Action Plan describes actions to be taken during City FY 2023 to meet housing and community development needs identified in the City's 2022 - 2026 Five-Year Consolidated Plan and serves as the City's application to HUD for an estimated \$1,191,444 in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and \$628,038 in Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds.

The City's FY 2023 CDBG and HOME funding levels are based on the Federal Fiscal Year 2022

Approved Budget. Activities to be supported with CDBG Program funds have been developed to meet the national objective of benefiting low- and moderate-income persons. CDBG Program activities will continue the City's ongoing efforts to address the needs of its low- to moderate- income residents, identify and eradicate illegal housing discrimination, provide housing rehabilitation assistance to income-eligible homeowners; provide homeownership opportunities for low- to moderate-income homebuyers; provide emergency housing assistance and winter emergency shelter for homeless families; and provide accessibility modification assistance to low- to moderate-income renters. Activities to be supported with HOME Program funds have been developed to be consistent with the HOME Program objective of expanding the supply of decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing. HOME Program activities will also continue the City's efforts to provide affordable housing opportunities for low- to moderate-income residents. In addition to CDBG- and HOME-funded activities, the One-Year Action Plan describes other affordable housing and community development activities to be undertaken by the City during this period, including the development and preservation of affordable housing.

The Five-Year Consolidated Plan is a comprehensive planning document that identifies the housing and community development needs of the City of Alexandria's extremely low-to moderate-income, homeless and special needs populations, as well as of any target areas identified by the City, and outlines strategies for addressing the needs of these groups and/or designated areas over a five-year period. It is being amended to expand the types of populations/ households who are considered to be at-risk of homelessness and to specify how the City's Section 108 loan funds will be used.

Copies of the City's Draft Action Plan (accompanied by a Resident Summary) and Draft Amendment may be reviewed or picked up beginning Monday, March 21 at the Office of Housing, located at 421

King Street, Suite 215, Alexandria, VA from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. These documents will also be available on the City's Website: alexandriava.gov/Housing and for review at the following City libraries:

BEATLEY CENTRAL LIBRARY:
5005 Duke Street, Alexandria
BARRETT BRANCH LIBRARY:
717 Queen Street, Alexandria
BURKE BRANCH LIBRARY:
4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria
DUNCAN BRANCH LIBRARY:
2501 Commonwealth Avenue,
Alexandria

Translated copies of the Draft Action Plan and Draft Amendment are available upon request. Copies of the Draft Action Plan and Draft Amendment accessible to persons with disabilities are also available upon request. Written comments may be sent via email or postal mail to the Office of Housing or emailed to kimberly.cadena@alexandriava.gov. Comments will be accepted until 5 p.m., Friday, April 22. Once approved by the City Council, the One-Year Action Plan and Amendment to the Consolidated Plan will then be submitted to HUD, per their instructions, for the City to receive the FFY 2023 CDBG and HOME Program funds.

For further information or request for reasonable accommodations, please call the Office of Housing at 703.746.4990, or TTY 703.838.5056 for the hearing impaired.

PUBLIC NOTICE



CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT HOME-AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ALLOCATION PLAN

The City of Alexandria's Draft HOME-American Rescue Plan ("HOME-ARP") Allocation Plan ("Draft Allocation Plan") will be available for public comment beginning on or about Monday, March 21, 2022 and ending Friday, April 22, 2022. Persons wishing to comment

on the Draft Allocation Plan may do so either in writing and/or providing testimony at the public hearing to be held before the City Council on Saturday, April 23, beginning at 9:30 a.m., located in the City Council Chambers, second floor of the Alexandria City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia.

The City's Draft Allocation Plan has been developed in accordance with guidelines set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Draft Allocation Plan is a planning document that identifies the housing and supportive services needs of the City of Alexandria's households at risk of homelessness and current unhoused population and outlines strategies for addressing the needs of these groups. The Draft Allocation Plan serves as the City's application to HUD for an estimated \$2,243,216 in HOME-ARP funds. Activities to be supported with HOME-ARP Program funds have been developed to primarily benefit qualifying individuals and families who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or in other vulnerable populations. HOME-ARP Program activities will provide deeply affordable units for qualifying individuals and families at risk of homelessness and limited rental assistance and supportive services to qualifying members of vulnerable populations.

Copies of the City's Draft Allocation Plan may be reviewed or picked up beginning Monday, March 21 at the Office of Housing, located at 421 King Street, Suite 215, Alexandria, VA from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. These documents will also be available on the City's Website: alexandriava.gov/Housing and for review at the following City libraries:

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2501 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria

Translated copies of the Draft Allocation Plan are available upon request. Copies of the Draft Allocation Plan accessible to persons with disabilities are also available upon request. Written comments may be sent via email or postal mail to the Office of Housing or emailed to kimberly.cadena@alexandriava.gov. Comments will be accepted until 5 p.m., Friday, April 22. Once approved by the City Council, the HOME-ARP Allocation Plan will then be submitted to HUD, per their instructions, for the City to receive the HOME-ARP funds.

For further information or requests for reasonable accommodations, please call Eric Keeler or Kim Cadena at the Office of Housing at 703.746.4990, or TTY 703.838.5056 for the hearing impaired.

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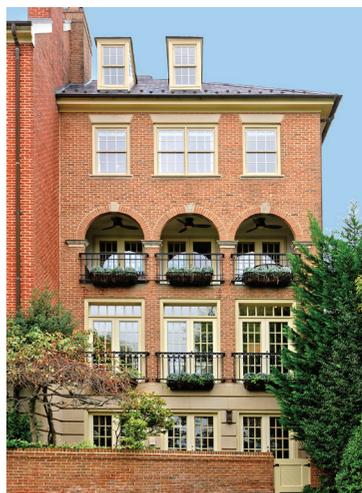


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