



PHOTO/ KIMBERLY JACKSON

View of the sanctuary from the balcony of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House.



FRANCES BENJAMIN JOHNS/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The OPMH in the late 1920s, after the Meeting House restoration of 1925-28.

A house of history and worship

Old Presbyterian Meeting House celebrates 250 years

BY KIM JACKSON

Driving through Old Town, tourists might miss one of the oldest places in the city, the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. Tracing the history of the church, which celebrates its 250th anniversary this year, is a lesson in American history, from the first settlers

to the American Revolution to the Civil War, through the abolition of slavery and all the way to issues of today.

The Old Presbyterian Meeting House, located at 323 S. Fairfax St., is tucked away in the heart of Old Town, neighboring residential homes in a preserved community. It was a place of refuge and strength in colonial days. Now, as the church has reached a significant anniversary, parishio-

ners want the public to know how significant the OPMH was and remains.

Early days

In the late 18th century, prior to the colonies existing as the United States, Presbyterian believers organized the Meeting House before it was allowed to even be called a church. Early on, most mem-

SEE MEETING HOUSE | 6

City Council approves Eisenhower project

Staff and developer disagree on fee discrepancy

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

City Council voted at the public hearing on Saturday to move forward with a multi-family housing development at 2111 and 2121 Eisenhower Ave.

A large portion of that meeting was dedicated to a debate between city staff and the developer over a technical detail that amounted to a \$1 million fee discrepancy.

The project in question will include 802 units

of multi-family housing, 44 of which will be affordable units. It will include a new roadway connection between Mill Road and Elizabeth Lane. There will also be two towers of varying height, conjoined by a six-level garage podium with one floor entirely below-grade.

The development plans come with a \$60,000 contribution to Capital Bikeshare, \$1,499,186 contribution to the city's Housing Trust Fund and approximately \$5.46 per square foot to the

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Tying the Knot



COURTESYPHOTO

Former Times editor Cody Mello-Klein and educator Anastasia Mazur found love here in the Port City. Read their full wedding story on **page 13**.

INSIDE

Camps

Learn the importance of putting kids in summer camps.

Page 18

Music Review

Kendrick Lamar's 'Mr. Morale and the Big Steppers' is reflective and mature.

Page 21

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WEEKLY BRIEFING



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A shooting at the Potomac Yard Exxon on May 13 left one person dead and another seriously injured.

Shooting in Potomac Yard leaves one dead

A shooting at a Potomac Yard Exxon located at 2320 Richmond Highway in Alexandria on May 13 left one person dead and one seriously injured, according to an Alexandria Police Department release.

The incident, which occurred just before 3 p.m., allegedly began as an attempted car-jacking involving five people, according to APD. After receiving a call for service at approximately 2:57 p.m., police arrived on the scene and discovered one deceased male and a second

male with a gunshot wound in serious condition.

ALXNow reported that police believe the owner of the car being hijacked may have shot the attempted hijackers. APD spokesman Marcel Bassett told ALXNow, "We believe the shooting was due to a carjacking. We believe the owner of the car shot the suspects."

The decedent has been identified as Jordan Poteat, 18, not from Alexandria. Mikell Morris, 18, and two male juveniles, both 15, were charged with carjacking. Bassett told the Times that the carjacking

victim is uninjured.

The incident is still under investigation, but APD said in a statement that all persons involved in the incident have been accounted for and there is no threat to the public.

APD is asking anyone who may have information related to this case to contact APD Detective Matthew Kramarik at 703-746-6650, email him at Matthew.Kramarik@alexandriava.gov or call the APD non-emergency line at 703-746-4444. Tips can be anonymous.

-ddunbar@alextimes.com

Agenda Alexandria to hold community meeting

Agenda Alexandria will conclude its 2021-2022 program season by holding an event on May 23 examining the city's future goals for its master plan.

The event will explore how the master plan aligns with the needs of the community, specifically when it comes to commercial versus residential zoning. It will take a look at

how community needs evolve over time and how the city and developers are adapting to those changes.

Starting at 6:30 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, the evening includes a panel discussion featuring Karl Moritz, city planning director; Carter Dudley Flemming, co-chair of the Alexandria Federa-

tion of Civic Associations; Kerry Donley, board member of AlexRenew and former Mayor; and Dwight Duntun, CEO of Bonaventure Realty Holdings.

Agenda Alexandria Vice Chair Rod Kuckro will moderate the panel, which will be livestreamed on social media for those who cannot attend.

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Grapewood Farm received the 2022 Sierra Club's Living Green Award on May 11 for its dedication to sustainability.

Grapewood Farm receives Sierra Club award

Grapewood Farm, owned by Alexandria residents Fred and Cathy Sachs, received the 2022 Sierra Club's Living Green Award on May 11, according to a news release.

Presented by the Rappahannock Group Sierra Club, the award recognized the farm's outstanding practice in nature farming and

sustainability. The 500-acre farm works mostly with small grains and stone ground flour.

Grapewood Farm's rewarded practices include no-till and reduced tillage methods in a three-year field rotation. Additionally, the farm utilizes cover crops and on-site com-

posting to improve the quality of the soil while rebuilding fertility.

The 500-acre farm dedicates 130 acres to farmland and is a member of the Common Grain Alliance, meaning that it distributes grains and flours to various Mid-Atlantic vendors.

-bgiblin@alextimes.com

Francis C. Hammond receives hygiene kits

United Way of the National Capital Area and Enterprise Holdings made its annual delivery of nearly 300 kits of hygiene and school supplies to Francis C. Hammond Middle School, according to a news release.

During the past four years the United Way NCA

has delivered 1,300 bags for the Hammond community. Enterprise Holdings employees packed the bags with school supplies, health and hygiene products at the event and presented the bags to Hammond principal Pierette Finney. They will be distributed to students

throughout the remainder of the school year, according to the release.

The hygiene kit delivery is an effort of the United Way NCA's "Do more 24" movement that calls for charities and organizations to help their communities.

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PHOTO/KIMBERLY JACKSON

Anna and Sandy Davis, OPMH members and church leaders.

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bers were Scottish merchants, who came to Alexandria pursuing religious freedom and financial independence.

“We were dissenters,” Don Dahmann, longtime OPMH member and chair of the history and archives commit-

tee, said. “... You could not be a church because the church is the Church, the Church of England, and everything else is something else, a meeting house.”

Though early settlers and enslaved people met and worshipped together years before, the Old Presbyterian Meet-

ing House became a formal congregation in 1772, when it received its first official minister, Rev. William Thom.

Meeting House members were also part of the American Revolution, Dahmann said.

“There are scores of members who are fighting in the militia units. The merchants are serving as commissary officers supplying George [Washington] and all of the armies with wheat and these desperate letters, you know, ‘We have to have more food!’” Dahmann said.

Once the war ended, the meeting house became incorporated in 1786, but a few years before that, the first meeting house building was constructed in 1775. Like many churches, it held memorial services for George Washington, the first president of the United States, upon his death in 1799. The church’s bell tolled four days before his burial.

“It was the only bell in town, so it tolled [to mark special events],” Dahmann said. “We know it tolled on certain times like the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, all kinds of those things, because bell ringing was a public signal. I’m sure it was for fire, too. Because it was the only bell in all of town.”

Continued relevance

Although the church is celebrating its 250th anniversary, the building that currently sits on the site is not the same one that was built in 1775. A lightning strike caused a fire that destroyed the original building in 1835, and the church rebuilt an exact replica a few years later. That building stands unchanged today except for a bell tower that was constructed in 1843 and a set of granite stairs at the entrance that were built in 1853. The bell that now tolls was recast with metal from the original bell that was destroyed in the fire, according to church historians.

“To me it is not just that this started a long time ago, it is that this continues today. That part to me is amazing given how much religion has evolved in the United States in general and Alexandria in particular,” Daniel Lee, a historian in the Office of Historic Alexandria, said.

According to Lee, some of the most important parts of the church’s history are the roles that members played during the Revolutionary War. The efforts of church members, many of whom were Scottish settlers, continue to impact the city’s international rela-

tions to this day, Lee said.

“The thing I would like to emphasize [is] we continue to have a relationship with Scotland today. Dundee, Scotland is one of our sister cities, and the Old Presbyterian Meeting House is a reflection of that long-held relationship,” Lee said.

The Old Presbyterian Meeting House is not just a historic monument – church members still gather on Sunday mornings. The sanctuary of today still has the pews from the 1830s with doors, which allowed families to seal in the heat. Unlike in the 19th century when families paid to reserve certain seats in the church, today, churchgoers can sit on any pew they choose.

“They never took up an offering in church. Instead, families paid rent for the pews. There were free pews,” Dahmann said.

According to Dahmann, there was never a slave gallery, even though he says there were enslaved people who attended church. Dahmann said issues of race have always been complicated for the church.

“This congregation has been part of that. Slave owners, house servants, peo-

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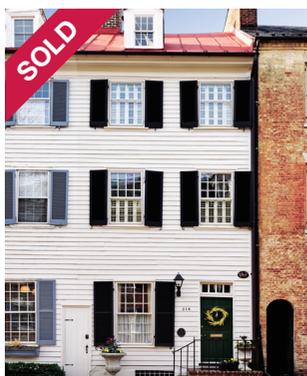
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MEETING HOUSE FROM | 6

ple owned slaves, clergy here owned slaves,” Dahmann said.

But he said while some churches owned enslaved people and hired them out for money, the Meeting House did not.

“We had African Americans as full community members in the 18th century and 19th century. We are members of abolition societies, twice,” Dahmann said.

Church records also show the first African American preached at the meeting house in 1811. Dahmann said the first woman preached at the meeting house in 1827, but today, the church has two associate ministers who are women, Katherine Stanford and Ann Herlin, who work alongside Pastor Robert Laha.

While some things have changed at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, others have not. On Sundays, the

choir still sits in the balcony, where the organ is located. When other churches became more modernized and moved the choir to the front of the church, the Old Presbyterian Meeting House stuck to the original tradition.

The church also kept the old clock that survived the fire at the original meeting house. Today it hangs in the sanctuary, and it remains set at 10:20 p.m.

“It is set to 10:20 because that is the time that George Washington died,” Dahmann said. “Two of the three doctors attending him were members of the congregation. One was James Craig, [who is] buried here. And they stopped the clock in his bedroom at 10:20.”

A repository of history

The meeting house maintains the burial ground where the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from the American Revolution is located, along with

other graves that date back to the 1770s, including many infants, who died unnamed before they could be baptized.

There are also fireproof cabinets that hold the names of enslaved people and thousands of members as well as thousands of sermons, 50 of them published from the colonial period.

There is a lot to see and learn at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. Some tourists have stopped by the historic church on local ghost tours, which have listed the church as an attraction. Sometimes the site’s relevance as a tourist attraction and its purpose as a church come into conflict, according to Anna Davis, co-chair of the church’s anniversary celebration committee.

“We had to stop a ghost tour from coming into the church in the middle of the service. It was like, ‘no’ because we don’t usually have things on Thurs-



PHOTO/KIMBERLY JACKSON

The interior of the OPMH from the pulpit with a view of the church organ in the balcony, where the choir also sings. Also pictured, Dr. Don Dahmann, church historian.

day evenings, so we get tour groups and that is fine. But we need to be known for more than just being on the ghost tour,” Davis, a 30-year church member, said.

The OPMH has already hosted a two-part lecture series about the history of the church, with recordings available on the church website at www.opmh.org

for those who missed it. The church also held a concert on May 15 and a reunion weekend, which will include an art shot, is upcoming in June. The organizers are asking current and former members to submit photos from weddings, baptisms or other events for

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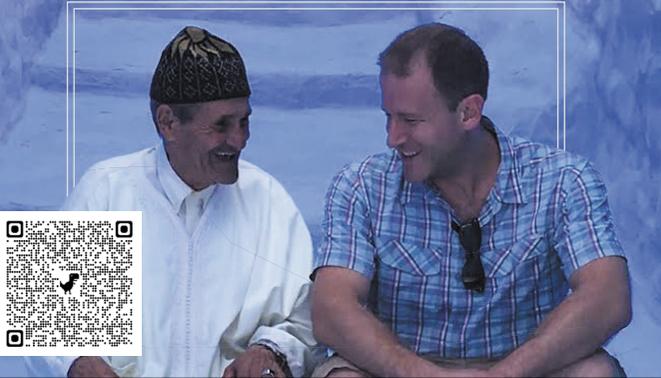
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MEETING HOUSE FROM | 9

display and for a lasting commemorative album. They will also host a tour of the Presbyterian Cemetery.

The hope is to share the history of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House and its more than 250 years of history, service and worship.

"I think we are too insular. I don't think we tout what we've [done] ... our important role in history, nearly enough. I don't think we really try to share our story outside, and I don't think it is deliberate. I think it just sort of happened that way," Davis said.

Over the course of two centuries, the Old Presbyterian Meeting House has become filled with stories and memories, and the story continues today.

Bonnie Leigh and her husband, Art, joined the church in 2004 as they were looking for a historic church in which to hold their wedding.

"We did get married here, and then I started doing the Easter flowers, the Christmas flowers. We started to



PHOTO/KIMBERLY JACKSON

Dr. Don Dahmann, historian and archivist, in front of the OPMH.

usher. I became a deacon. He is on the finance committee," Leigh said.

In 2020, Leigh's daughter got married at the church as well.

The Davis and Leigh families are just two that have found a sense of community in the Old Meeting Presbyterian House. Though they both realize the historical relevance of the church, they said it is the people in the building that make the difference for them.

Nearly 20 years after her

wedding in the historic church, Leigh said she has found a place where her and her husband belong.

"Everybody is welcome. It is fun. We made a lot of really good friends here," Leigh said. "If anything were to happen to me, I could call, I can't tell you how many people. And they would come help."

Find a full list of events for the 250th celebration as well as written church history at www.opmh.org.

-kimjacks@hotmail.com

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COUNCIL FROM | 1

Eisenhower East Implementation Fund.

During the staff presentation, Karl Moritz, the city's planning director, said that a disagreement arose recently between staff and the applicant regarding how to apply the latter contribution toward the above-ground parking portion of the development.

"I do need to apologize to the applicant for the extreme lateness of bringing this issue to our collective attention," Moritz said. "... But staff's view is that the Eisenhower East plan is clear about what the contribution applies to, and even more clear about what is exempt."

Moritz said that the contribution applies to development

with important exemptions. What constitutes development, he said, is what is built above ground.

Mayor Justin Wilson pointed out that a similar situation occurred several times before, where staff has come back with changes later in the process. He advocated for providing more explicit guidance in the future.

"I feel there like there needs to be a table in here that lists everything they pay, and the exact amount that we expect as the project is proposed, and then if it changes when we get later in the process, fine, we can add language that reflects that flexibility, but we should never get to [public] hearing when this stuff is still up in the air," Wilson said.

During public testimony,

applicant attorney Cathy Puskar expressed frustration over receiving such short notice from city staff about the square footage detail, which she said would amount to a \$1 million fee increase for the applicant. Puskar called the mishap "unfortunate and egregious."

"I received a call 23 hours before this hearing, telling me that the high-level staff in Planning & Zoning had a different interpretation of our obligation on the developer contribution than had been discussed during the small area plan, had been agreed to during the small area plan negotiations about community benefit, and has been documented in the conditions

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COURTESY PHOTO

City staff and the Eisenhower project developer disagreed on a technical square footage detail that amounted to a \$1 million fee discrepancy.

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before you today,” Puskar said.

Puskar asserted that the condition does not say that the developer pays on square footage above the base, but rather on net residential square footage above the base. Puskar also noted that she had a conversation with staff in April going over the final report in which the item was not raised.

The concern was also not raised during the Planning Commission meeting, which went on to unanimously recommend approval of the project.

“You can imagine my shock of getting a call at 10 o’clock in the morning that they think my client owes them an additional \$1 million in order to build this project,” Puskar said. “I cannot agree that a residential square foot and a parking square foot are equal in value. We very carefully negotiated this developer contribution.”

In response, Jeffrey Farnar, deputy director of the city’s planning department, said that the conversation revolves around whether or not the definition of residential development includes parking.

Moritz added that the condition specifically reads, “per net square foot of residential development.”

“I think that to come to the conclusion that parking is not included, you would have to say, ‘Is there anything in

the small area plan that says ‘net’ means the units and the common spaces but does not mean the parking garage, and there isn’t anything to point to that says that’s the case,” Moritz said.

The discussion ping-ponged back and forth for about two hours regarding the definition of parking in the new Eisenhower East Small Area Plan, where this project will be the first of its kind.

Councilor Sarah Bagley expressed concern for the timeframe in which the dispute came up.

“I have to admit, as much as I have expressed in my four months in office being impressed by our staff, I share the frustration. This is a \$1 million issue,” Bagley said.

Several speakers at public comment also raised concerns regarding the number of affordable housing units. Greg Akerman, a representative for DC Metro Building Trades, emphasized the importance of promoting quality construction jobs throughout the region.

“We are keenly aware of the types of projects that attract high quality contractors ... these types of projects often-times do not, unless the developer has taken extra steps to adopt labor standards for their workers. With that in mind, it’s especially important that they offset those types of lack of standards with protections

for affordable housing,” Akerman said. “We want to make sure this developer makes a greater commitment to the community, both for affordable housing and for the construction of the project.”

Several options were available to council regarding the project, from approving it, denying it or deferring a decision to a later date.

“Do we want the project? Do we want the affordable housing that has already been put in place with this amount of money? Do we want any of that, or do we want to defer it and say to come back with a whole other thing, which then of course puts everybody behind the 8 ball in terms of how long this project has already taken,” Vice Mayor Amy Jackson said, who supported moving forward with the project as is.

Councilor Canek Aguirre suggested that a two-week deferral may be necessary in order to give staff time to hash out exact numbers, but Puskar said further conversation wouldn’t matter.

“[The report] is either going to say I’m right, or I’m wrong, and what I’m saying to you is that we’ve gone through 15 months of this project,” Puskar said.

“So if it says you’re wrong, what are you going to say?” Aguirre said.

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“We’re not going to be able to pay it. We went for 15 months on this project,” Puskar said. “... We’ve already been through the Planning Commission, we have a pro forma, this never came up. It came up 23 hours before this hearing. ... Even if I had more time, we are not agreeing to the increase contribution. We cannot pay it.”

Eventually, staff and Puskar worked out a revised condition to allow the project to move forward, without the developer having to pay nearly an extra \$1 million. The Eisenhower East Small Area plan requires a contribution to the Eisenhower East Implementation Fund:

a. Contribute \$910,879.71 for Phase #1, and \$1,088,856.21 for Phase #2;

b. Contribution rates are subject to an annual escalation clause equivalent to the CPIU



COURTESY PHOTO

The project at 2111 and 2121 Eisenhower Avenue will include 802 units of multi-family housing, 44 of which will be affordable units.

for the Washington Metro area. Contribution rates will be recalculated January of each year. The final contribution amount shall be calculated and verified by the Neighborhood Planning and Community Development Division of the Department of Planning and Zoning at the time of Certificate of Occupancy. Payments shall be made proportionally prior to the release

of the first certificate of occupancy for each phase.”

The amount specified in the final approved condition does not include the extra \$944,094 originally discussed, meaning that the developer will not be paying that additional amount.

Staff and Puskar also addressed the affordable housing topic, drafting language to amend condition 123 in order

to maximize the number of units committed affordable.

The amendment reads, “Provide 20 and 24 set-aside rental units in the Phase #1 and Phase #2 respectively, as indicated in Table 1, or in an effort to provide additional housing units, all one bedroom units may be provided so long as the value of the one bedroom units is equivalent to the value of the 13 2 bedroom

units provided in Table 1, to be determined at the time of Final Site Plan to the satisfaction of the Director of Housing.”

Toward the end of the meeting, Wilson emphasized that despite the debate, he fully supported the advancement of the project.

“This is an area that we’ve wanted to have this kind of investment in the city. I know we’re spending time talking on one specific aspect of this project and that’s frustrating because sometimes we ignore the fact that there’s a lot of other good things going on here,” Wilson said. “This is a really, really good project for the city and so I want to see this project move forward.”

Ultimately, council voted unanimously to approve the project, 5-0-1, with Councilor John Chapman absent and Alyia Gaskins abstaining due to a campaign contribution from a developer.

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Tying the Knot



PHOTO/HUNTER AND SARAH PHOTOGRAPHY

Cody Mello-Klein and Anastasia Mazur at their engagement photo shoot near Charlottesville, Virginia.

An Alexandria romance

Cody Mello-Klein and Anastasia Mazur
find love after moving to the Port City

BY DENISE DUNBAR

When Cody Mello-Klein moved to Alexandria in December 2018 to work as a reporter at the Alexandria Times, the Boston-area native was not only launching his journalism career — he was ready for a fresh start with dating. Unbeknown to him, Anastasia Mazur had also moved to Alexandria from Ithaca, New York six months earlier and she, too, was looking for a new beginning.

It only took them a little over a month after Cody's arrival to find each other, and they've been essentially inseparable ever since.

They met through the Bumble dating app, and they both

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Tying the Knot



COURTESY PHOTO

Cody Mello-Klein and Anastasia Mazur with their dog, Feta, in Sharon, Massachusetts, Christmas 2020.

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deliberately chose that app because it requires the woman to initiate contact.

“It was my first experience with a dating app,” Cody said.

“On Bumble, the girl has to make the first move,” Anastasia interjected.

“Which is exactly why I did it,” Cody laughed.

After their profiles matched, Anastasia sent Cody a gif of a bear waving hello, and he responded with a waving whale. They texted back and forth through the app for a few days, each finding things to like in the other.

“One of the things that drew me to you is that you said you cried at a movie, and I thought that was a good sign that you could relate to the things around you, and you felt powerfully connected to something,” Anastasia said. “I thought that was impressive.”

“Yeah, the day we started texting I had gone to see ‘If Beale Street could talk,’ the Barry Jenkins adaptation of the James Baldwin novel,” Cody said. “I had gone to see it

by myself because at that point I was new in Alexandria, so I didn’t have any friends. ... And then I ended up crying at the end of that movie.”

The weekend they started texting was the 2019 Super Bowl weekend. Though neither Cody nor Anastasia are big football or sports fans, both had the game on while texting back and forth that day. Both were cautious – Anastasia because of a prior marriage that she termed “somewhat abusive” and Cody because of an earlier relationship that had gone “awry” – so it took them a couple of weeks to work up to an in-person meeting.

“I think I had to push you because you’re very soft-spoken,” Anastasia said. “I said, ‘Can I give you my number?’”

They decided to meet on Cedar Street, near the border of where Del Ray meets Old Town. Because Cody parked at the bottom of the street and Anastasia at the top, they had a dramatic walk toward each other before they actually met.

“We had this long walk to see each other. It was very suspenseful,” Anastasia laughed.

“So we met up and started walking down into Old Town, past the Metro stop and down King Street and we were just chatting along the way,” Cody said. “I think you recommended us going to Dolci Gelati to sort of have our first sit-down date together.”

They pair quickly found they held similar political views, a discovery expedited by a Anastasia’s statement that she was “fiercely anti-Trump” Cody recalled. “And I was like, ‘Oh yeah, I think we’re on the same page here,’ which is nice.”

“I think I was being bitingly honest with my opinions so they were out there right away,” Anastasia said. “So that if you didn’t like what you’ve got, you knew that going in that’s who I was.”

“I really appreciated it because it spoke volumes about how confident you were in your own beliefs and your own sense of self,” Cody said.

As they continued to talk, the pair found they had much more in common than first

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PHOTO/HUNTER AND SARAH PHOTOGRAPHY

Cody Mello-Klein and Anastasia Mazur on their wedding day, May 1, 2022.



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met the eye. They strolled down to The Torpedo Factory, where a playful game with cat and dog photos in one studio both broke the ice and told Cody and Anastasia more about each other's likes and dislikes.

"I'm a cat person and he's a dog person and I was putting all the cat pictures in front and you were taking all the dog pictures and putting them in front of my cat pictures," Anastasia said. "I thought, 'OK, I need someone who can spar with me a little bit.'"

That first date ended up lasting five hours, as the pair walked and talked, getting to know one another.

"After that first date, I remember wanting to spend more time with her, and wanting to learn more and more about her until I understood her inside and out," Cody said. "And as a journalist, that's typical, but I wanted to grasp every little detail about her and what made her tick."

They quickly made interesting discoveries about shared experiences and traits.

"The first few conversations we had, we were already talking about my grandmother being a Holocaust survivor and your grandmother having been a survivor on the Polish side having gone through Serbia and all that," Cody said.

"We have interesting connections that I wouldn't have thought," Anastasia said. "And [you were] so forward about some of those hard things that sort of shaped you and your family."

In addition to politics and family experiences, they bonded over their shared sense of being nerds, though of differing types. Both were undergraduate English majors and both love reading.

"I love that we can just sit

and read. Even if it's not the same kind of book," Anastasia said. "To just sit next to one another and just read, even if we're not talking to one another."

Cody shared his love of movies, video games and dogs with Anastasia, who introduced Cody to the joy of living with two cats.

"You also love movies and that's not necessarily something I was interested in, but you showed me how literary they can be and how powerful the imagery can be. You sharing that with me has been a bonding experience. We now have Sunday movie nights where we get to show each other our favorite movies," Anastasia said.

In February 2020, almost exactly a year after they began dating, Cody and Anastasia decided to move in together. At this point, it was clear that they had a long-term future together, something they both began to suspect after attending the wedding of one of Anastasia's friends back in the summer of 2019.

"I remember dancing with you during a slow dance during the wedding, and the thought sort of starting to form at that point," Cody said. "I think it was from then on it was just sort of a gradual development, in the back of my mind."

After that, honest conversations informed their decision to take that next step.

"We're not older, but we're in our late 20s and a lot of our friends are getting married or have been married," Anastasia said. "We weren't looking to just casually date. If it's going to be serious, let's commit and if it's not, then we have to go our separate ways. I like to say we just fell into a committed relationship. It just came on so easy."

So Cody and Anastasia moved in together, and then

adopted their dog, Feta, all in the weeks leading up to the March 2020 shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I always said I would never want to work with my significant other," Anastasia said. "My job is my life and that's a lot of intermingling."

Yet they found that there were positives to being forced to share space while working from home.

"We joke that it sort of added a few extra years to our relationship counter. Because typically we would never have had the opportunity to be with each other 24/7," Cody said.

"I got to see what your job was really like and same for you," Anastasia added.

Cody had the added benefit of watching a teacher strive to connect with her students each day at the same time the Times had been covering how COVID-19 was impacting all facets of life, including in Alexandria's schools.

"One of the things that I first loved when I met her was that she was a teacher," Cody said. "I have benefitted from great teachers in the past. My dad is a professor at a different level of education, but I still understood what it takes to be a teacher and had tremendous respect, but during the pandemic I was seeing her doing it at our dining room table every day and really see what it took to be a successful teacher at a time where it was not easy. ... I was just so proud of her."

In addition to working remotely from home soon after moving in together, Anastasia began a doctoral program through the University of Pittsburgh in March 2020.

"I became the chef," Cody laughed.

"And you were somebody who told me I could go for this program. I was nervous about



COURTESY PHOTO

Pat Miller and others in Del Ray helped Cody plan the surprise proposal that took place in Pat Miller Square on June 25, 2021. Cody had lights strung in chicken wire spelling out "Marry Me."

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applying and he was like, ‘Of course you’re smart enough. Of course you can do this. What do I need to do to help you?’” Anastasia said.

Once they had decided on a future together, Cody turned his focus to how to propose to Anastasia.

“Me proposing to her was one of the hardest things I’ve had to do in my life. Because I’m super hard on myself. It’s to my benefit professionally, but probably to my detriment personally,” Cody said. “And so I was just thinking nonstop, ‘What’s the perfect way for me to do this? How am I going to make it a surprise?’”

Cody decided the proposal needed to be quintessentially Alexandria, because this city is where they met, fell in love and made their first

home together. And he knew it needed to take place in Del Ray, a neighborhood they particularly love. So he enlisted the help of the Del Ray leader he knew best: Pat Miller.

“She was the first guest on the podcast and I’ve talked to her countless times for other things. She immediately connected me with like 10 different people,” Cody said.

Cody knew he wanted the proposal to take place in Pat Miller Square in the heart of Del Ray and he knew he wanted lights to be involved. So Miller helped plan a community “start of summer” event on June 25, 2021, in the square with a band, which created a festive atmosphere.

“I was able to get someone who rigged up like a chicken wire fence that we could lace lights through to say ‘Marry Me.’ We were able to get a band

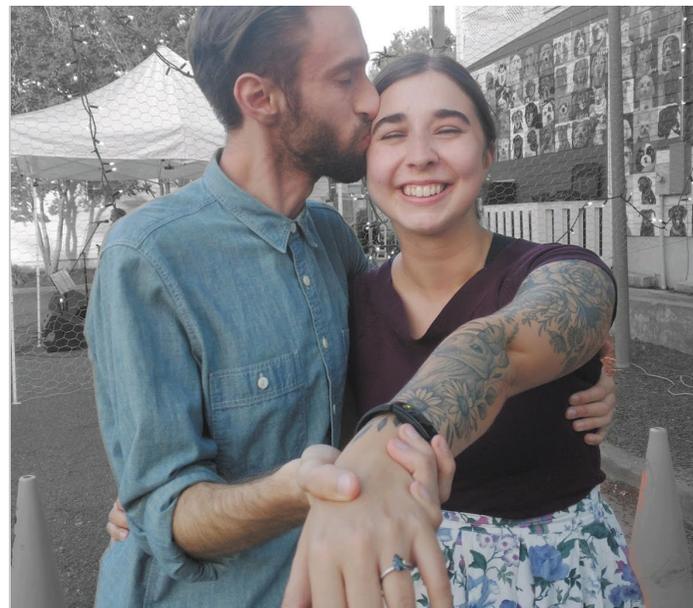
to play, which I loved because I’m obviously a big music and live music person. I had the band learn a song for the proposal that I knew you liked: ‘Bloody Valentine,’ by Machine Gun Kelly. Which is not my cup of tea, but Anastasia loved it,” Cody said.

Cody had accounted for everything – everything, that is, except Anastasia’s high heels and sore legs.

“We had gone out to dinner at Evening Star. The plan was to then go to Dairy Godmother to grab custard and then walk across the street to Pat Miller Square and sit down and then I was going to propose to her,” Cody said.

The dinner went great and afterward Cody suggested the stroll to Dairy Godmother.

“I wear these heels to go out and he’s having me walk down a couple of blocks and



COURTESYPHOTO

Anastasia Mazur shows off her engagement ring after Cody Mel-lo-Klein proposed at Pat Miller Square in the Del Ray neighborhood on June 25, 2021.

it’s hurting my feet,” Anastasia said. “And I’m like, ‘Cody, we don’t have to get ice cream. Just think of me Cody. And he turns to me and says, ‘I AM

thinking of you.’ And I was like, ‘OK, what does that mean?’ I have these burning legs and

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he was like, ‘Look! Over here! Let’s listen to music.’”

Anastasia made it to the park, where her best friend and her friend’s boyfriend wore disguises and filmed the whole thing, while passersby and those in the square listening to the band formed a festive audience when Cody knelt to ask Anastasia to marry him.

“It was a perfect, perfect moment,” Anastasia said. “The other part was that my best friend, who I call my other soulmate saw the whole thing and I was like, ‘He really understands me.’ He really captured everything.”

“It went way better than I thought it would,” Cody said.

“Even with me almost running away,” Anastasia laughed.

They turned their thoughts to the wedding itself, and decided on Glass House Winery, near Charlottesville, which includes both a beautiful setting in Virginia’s wine country plus an indoor venue for the ceremony and dinner in case of inclement weather. They set May 1, 2022 as their wedding date.

“The greenhouse, you step in and you just sort of smell all these tropical plants,” Cody said. “So the smell hits you first and then you sort of see all of this lush greenery. Aesthetically it’s beautiful. Practically, it’s an indoor, temperature-controlled place, so it takes out the randomness of having to worry about weather.”

Another appealing facet of the venue was its intimacy, as the wedding consisted of just 23 people including Cody and Anastasia.

“There’s a bed and breakfast on the property, so both of our families, we got to all stay in the house together,” Anastasia said. “Our parents

could get to hang out more, because there hadn’t been a lot of opportunity. We got to have breakfast together before and the day after our wedding.”

Cody and Anastasia’s honeymoon trip, a visit to Portugal to see Lisbon and the Azores – where Cody’s mother’s family hails from – is planned for August.

Meantime, Cody and Anastasia are in the midst of a second significant life change: they are moving back to their native Northeast. Cody has just started a new job in the news department at Northeastern University, his alma mater, in Boston, while Anastasia will begin teaching this fall in Providence, Rhode Island. They plan to live in between Boston and Providence.

“We both love Alexandria so much,” Cody said. “I’ve committed three years, you’ve committed a little bit longer. It’s hard to say goodbye to the city, the people we’ve come to know here. You guys at the Times, the team we’ve become close with.”

“I’ve kind of restarted my life here, found many wonderful friends, and obviously my husband down here,” Anastasia said. “... It’s hard. But it’s hard to afford living down here as a young person. Looking forward to our future, we want to be able to have a home and give those kinds of things to our hopefully larger future family.”

Having moved to Alexandria, met and married, Cody and Anastasia now set out on a new journey.

“It’s very symbolic of what a marriage is: stepping into the unknown into an adventure, and I’m hopeful and excited and scared and nervous. But I have my life partner here with me and I know it will be OK,” Anastasia said.

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“ I like to say we just fell into a committed relationship. It just came on so easy,”

– Anastasia Mazur



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The importance of summer camps

BY HANNAH DICKEY

Summer Camps have long been the time when children are allowed to be wild, free and act their age with not a worry in the world – at least until the COVID-19 pandemic. These past few years have been difficult, but we are finally on track toward normal routines. I think it is safe to say that we finally can see light at the end of the tunnel.

Post-pandemic, why do parents send their children to summer camps? Is it so they can still socialize, learn, exert their energy and just have

fun? Yes to all of the above and more. As families gear up and prepare for another summer, let's not forget why summer camps are so important.

During the pandemic, summer camps were either non-existent or extremely restricted, making learning and socializing for children difficult. Socialization for children is important for positive growth. Through summer camps, children learn how to share and work in groups when given group-oriented activities, learn about empathy when a fellow camper gets upset and continuously work

on and develop language skills when communicating with each other in group activities.

Camps help children increase their self-confidence after successfully completing a project or even by scoring the winning point in a kickball game. It is also the time where some of our greatest memories are created and shared, along with making new friendships that can last a lifetime.

Camps are also a time when children's thinking caps are at least somewhat still active while school is out for the summer. Not only are children socializing, but their natural curiosity is still intact. It is the perfect time to take a cooking program and learn about kitchen and food

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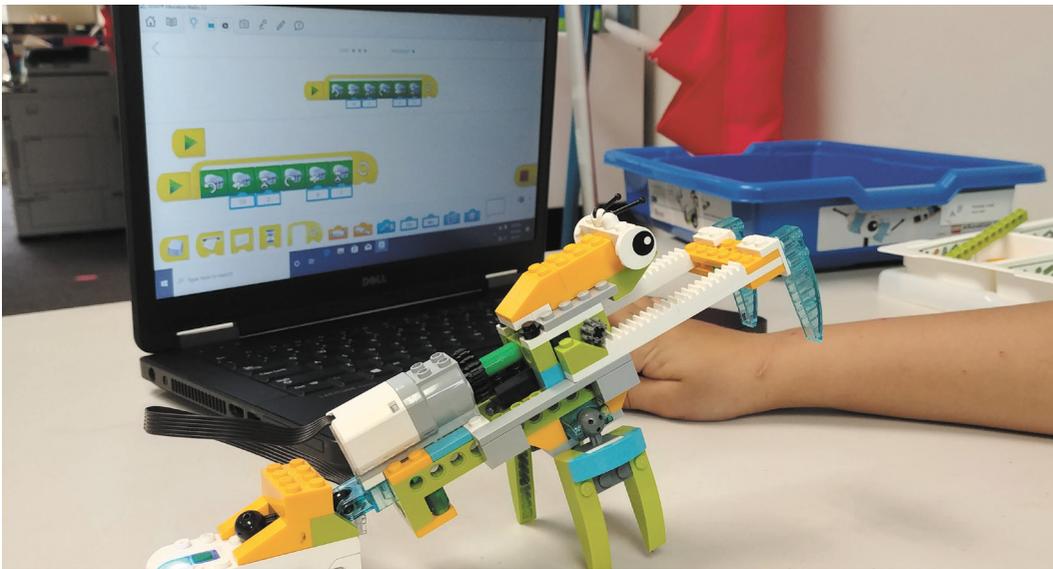
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safety or learn about coding and computers and how they affect the world today, or even perhaps learn a different and new sport. Teamwork is so

By experiencing these new activities, children learn more about themselves and what they like and dislike. The environment in which they learn

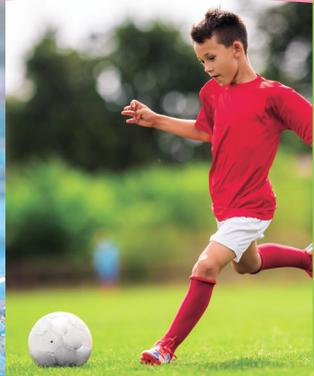
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of stress from work, or your children are driving you crazy? So you go for a run, do yoga, or play a sport. Children also need time to exert their energy, and they need that more than adults.

According to USNews.com, children have greater energy levels than well-trained adult endurance athletes, so it is crucial for them to have outlets to release that energy. During summer camps, children are exerting that energy with friends and counselors. Compare the summer of 2020 to the summer of 2019 – can you recall the difference?

We all know the main reason why summer camps are essential: they're fun. School's out and it is time for children to have a break and simply have fun being a kid. Don't lie

to yourself. Secretly, you are a bit jealous and wished that your job would stop operating during the summer to give you a break to have fun as well.

Children are only children for so long, and they deserve to have fun summers. It is no surprise that summer camps are deemed necessary. Where would we be without them?

We already got a glimpse through a couple of summers where restrictions were implemented, and it simply was not safe to be in large crowds. What a time that was! Yet look at how far we have come. So much good has happened just within this school year that I have a great feeling about this summer. I hope your family feels the same way.

The writer is director of communications at Baroody Camps.



Small Group Neighborhood Sports Camp 'Patrick's Pals', Summer 2021.

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Times Living

‘Mr. Morale’ is Kendrick Lamar’s most mature album to date

BY ANDREW DUNBAR

On “Mr. Morale and the Big Steppers,” platinum-selling rapper Kendrick Lamar – like millions of others after the events of the last two years – finds himself in therapy. And, like many tasked with voicing their greatest weaknesses and insecurities, he finds himself “tap-dancing around” his actual issues, going on tangents and distracting himself from the real reasons he’s there.

Over the past decade, Kendrick Duckworth, known professionally as Kendrick Lamar, has steadily risen to the top of the hip-hop scene by delivering socially conscious rap with the ability to appeal to mainstream listeners, managing to sell millions of units on his albums no matter what direction he takes his music in.

It is difficult to overstate Lamar’s influence on hip-hop culture. His 2012 breakout record, “Good Kid, M.A.A.D City” set the tone for how rap would sound for the rest of the 2010s. His 2015 followup, “To Pimp a Butterfly,” not only cemented his place as a top musician of the decade but also proved he has a mind to be reckoned with – approaching topics like gang violence, drug use, and fame with layers of complexity unheard of in other music – all over hypnotic jazz and funk beats. Returning to a more traditional sound for

2017’s “DAMN,” Lamar found the balance between mainstream and experimental – and went triple platinum in just over a year.

This tug-of-war between Lamar wanting to make art and simultaneously appeal to the mainstream is palpable on “Mr. Morale,” and he makes these juxtapositions in sound intentionally jarring for his listeners. “I went and got me a therapist,” Lamar says on the opener, “United In Grief.” Over the course of the following seventeen tracks, he attempts to get to the root of his own issues and those of his community, but instead finds himself searching for distractions from the real sources of his pain. This is intelligently portrayed by flitting between heavy jazz-piano driven songs with quiet bass and steady drums to upbeat, punchy, romantic pop rap tracks.

The compositions, mixes, and masters are clear, detailed and organic. Beautifully textured piano fills the record from front to back; Lamar’s vocals are always crisp and balanced and sit naturally within accompanying tracks. The kick drum and bass on “N95” and “Rich Spirit” will fill up the listener’s room and induce inevitable head nodding. This record truly sounds like it took five years to make, and the dedication of Lamar and his team should not go unnoticed.

With a confident runtime



PHOTO/RENELL MEDRANO

Kendrick Lamar released his new album, ‘Mr. Morale & the Big Steppers,’ on May 13.

of just over 70 minutes, Lamar, as usual, demands investment from his listeners. Half of the 18 tracks are some of the best songs of 2022; several would be better art had they been poetry instead of music, and a couple would improve the record by their absence. Standouts include “N95,” “Father Time,” “Rich Spirit,” “Purple Hearts,” and “Mother I Sober.” Self-indulgent tracks like “We Cry Together” (which wastes a glorious beat produced by Alan “The Alchemist” Maman—former personal DJ to Eminem), both inter-

ludes, and “Mr. Morale” border on tedium. When Lamar is exploring the soundscapes of jazz-rap that he helped revive on “To Pimp A Butterfly,” his music is uniquely his own; when he jumps back into pop-rap, the results are intentionally reminiscent of his contemporaries – “Die Hard” could be a Post Malone single. The title track “Mr. Morale” sounds like a slightly toned-down copy of “Black Skinhead” by Kanye West. Although these decisions are intentional, they still bring down the album from classic

territory, which Lamar strives for on every record.

While sonically inconsistent, Lamar is at the top of his game as a writer and storyteller on every track of “Mr. Morale and the Big Steppers.” His ability to tell compelling narratives through rhymes remains unmatched. On “Worldwide Steppers,” he describes his feelings about engaging romantically with his first white woman – whose father was the sheriff who had put his uncle in jail – “She drove her daddy’s Benz / I found out that he was a sheriff / That was a win-win / Because he had locked up Uncle Perry / She paid her daddy’s sins,” Lamar raps. “This is what the world sounds like,” Lamar says in the opening to “We Cry Together,” before he and Taylour Paige trade verses back and forth in an imitation of a vicious fight between a couple. “Disregardin’ the way that I cope with my own vices / Maybe it’s time to break it off / Run away from the culture to follow my heart,” Lamar raps on the closer, “Mirror.”

Although one of the more mediocre listens on the record, the lyrics of “Mirror” represent a stunning moment in Lamar’s growth – he no longer feels the need to save the world, as he did on “Good Kid, M.A.A.D City” and “To Pimp a Butterfly.” He knows this is futile, and only betrays a savior complex; Lamar understands now that it is simply enough to take care of himself and his family.

The writer is an audio engineer, freelance writer and lover of music.

SENIORS



FILE PHOTO

One way to stay connected to the community and combat social isolation is through maintaining social activities and relationships.

Celebrating older Americans month

BY PAMELA AUSTIN

Older adults play vital, positive roles in our communities – as family members, friends, mentors, volunteers, civic

leaders, members of the workforce and more. Just as every person is unique, so too is how they age and how they choose to do it, and there is no right way. That's why the theme for

Older Americans Month 2022 is "Age My Way."

Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads the celebration of OAM. This year's theme focuses

on how older adults can age in their communities, living independently for as long as possible and participating in ways they choose.

While Age My Way will look different for each person, here are common things everyone can consider:

- **Planning:** Think about what you will need and want in the future, from home and community-based services to community activities that interest you.

- **Engagement:** Remain involved and contribute to your community through work, volunteering and civic participation opportunities.

- **Access:** Make home improvements and modifications, use assistive technologies and customize supports to help you better age in place.

- **Connection:** Maintain social activities and relationships to combat social isolation and stay connected to your community.

This year, the Division of Aging and Adult Services is excited to celebrate OAM with our partners in the aging community. Diverse communities are strong communities. Ensuring that older adults remain involved and included in our communities for as long as possible benefits everyone.

Please join the City of Alexandria in strengthening our community. Find resources on aging in place at www.alexandriava.gov/aging. Also register for the following in-person upcoming events at www.seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414 extension 110.

- Senior Health and Fitness Fair, May 19, 10 a.m. at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Featuring an interactive program by the Northern Virginia Falls Prevention Alliance, healthy cooking demonstrations, exercise with

SEE SENIORS

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SENIORS

SENIORS

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Rodney Bates – a senior-fitness favorite of the Alexandria Recreation Department – as well as blood pressure and glaucoma screenings.

• Senior Law Day, June 4, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, First Baptist Church, 2932 King St. This year with a theme of “What I Wish I Knew.” Steve Gurney, Founder and Publisher of the Positive-Aging Sourcebook and one of the region’s leading experts on aging, will be the keynote speaker talking about the importance of understanding the options available for older adults and their caregivers and why advance planning is so important. Local experts will share information about estate planning; how to navigate Medicare, Medicaid



PAMELA AUSTIN

and Long-Term Health Care; and options for aging in place including in-home care, local support services and end-of-life decisions. The event is free and open to the public with light refreshments and parking. Several community partners, including representatives from local home care organizations, estate and financial planners, residential communities and local government agencies will also be in attendance.

For more information, visit the official OAM website, follow ACL on Twitter and Facebook, and join the conversation using #OlderA.

The writer is aging & disability resource coordinator for the City of Alexandria Division of Aging and Adult Services.

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Samuel Morrison Ellsworth, Jr., 'Sam'



Samuel "Sam" Ellsworth, 89, of Alexandria, died on April 29 of cardiac arrest.

He was born to Samuel M. Ellsworth, Sr. and Marjorie Thomas Ellsworth and raised in Braintree, Massachusetts with his brother Thomas. After the death of his father in 1944, when Sam was 11, the family moved to Northampton, Massachusetts to be near Marjorie's sister Ruth Thomas.

Sam attended Eaglebrook Academy and Mount Hermon School for Boys. He spent his undergraduate years at The University of Massachusetts Amherst and played bass with the Dixieland jazz band The Intercollegiate Stompers, which performed at venues throughout the region and won the Arthur Godfrey Talent Scout show in 1951-52. Sam then studied for a master's in city planning at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

After two years with the U.S. Army, Sam took a job as a city planner in Arlington, Virginia. He met Maryann "Molly" Dwan and the two were married a year later in 1961. They settled in Old Town, Alexan-

dria, where they raised their three daughters. Sam entered the field of real estate development, working with partners over the years to renovate historic buildings and to build small townhouse developments and office buildings, all in historic Old Town. His projects included Brockett's Crossing, Shad Row, Arch Hall, The Strand, Green's Steam Furniture Works and The Norford Inn properties.

In his 40s, Sam developed an abiding interest in the nation and people of Haiti. In support of Haiti, he served on the board and executive committee of the Center for International Policy from the late 1980s to 2015, attending the inauguration of Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide in 1991 and, a year later, serving on a delegation that worked to reinstate him.

Sam and Molly enjoyed sailing, skiing, tennis, bridge and travel, with both family and friends, and were active members of their local community. Sam was an aerobics and Zumba enthusiast as well, continuing the latter activity into his mid-80s, and met monthly with his poker group for the last several decades of his life.

Sam is survived by his brother, Tom (Jane Longstreet) Ellsworth; his three daughters, Deborah Ellsworth (Moray Dewhurst), of Alexandria, Kelley Ellsworth (Rogelio Maxwell) of Washington D.C., and Katherine Ellsworth (Col. Peter Petronzio) of Warrenton, Virginia; and his ten beloved grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. on July 30 at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House at 323 S. Fairfax St. in Alexandria. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Partners in Health.

"A person's a person, no matter how small," Horton Hears a Who, Dr. Seuss.



PHOTO/BRANDPOINT

Poor drinking water quality can affect both your health and the longevity of pipes throughout your home.

Tips for cleaner drinking water

BY BRANDPOINT

Clean drinking water is easy to take for granted – especially at home, where many assume it can be obtained with the simple turn of the faucet. But as you enjoy that cold glass of water, you may be missing subtle signals that it's time to get your home's water supply tested.

During the last decade, North America's aging infrastructure along with new and emerging contaminants have heightened the risk of harmful impurities potentially contaminating our water supply and placed water quality in the forefront of North Americans' minds. A recent study from Culligan International, a leading international water treatment organization, indicated that while 75%

of North Americans think water safety is a growing issue, only 33% have had their home supply tested for contaminants.

Poor drinking water quality can affect everything from your health to the longevity of the pipes throughout your home. Ensuring your drinking water is safe can't be left to chance. To protect yourself, your family and your home, follow these four simple tips:

Know where water contamination can occur. Water impurities are not just limited to the water source. They can also happen in the distribution system after treatment from the local municipality or private well. While many naturally occurring chemicals and impurities from local water

SEE WATER

Speak
Easy



Check out Speak
Easy, the Alexandria
Times podcast.



Find us on Spotify, iTunes and
Audible – or wherever you listen to your podcasts.

HOMES

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treatments can be filtered at the source, additional contamination can occur in service pipes. These issues are commonly found in homes built prior to 1986 when lead pipes, fixtures and solder were regularly used.

Notice any issues that may be caused by water impurities. Some signs of problem water include corroded plumbing fixtures, unpleasant odors, disagreeable taste, discolored water and even shortened appliance lifespan. It is important to note that some water contaminants cannot be detected by taste, odor or color. In these cases, only a water test can identify an issue.

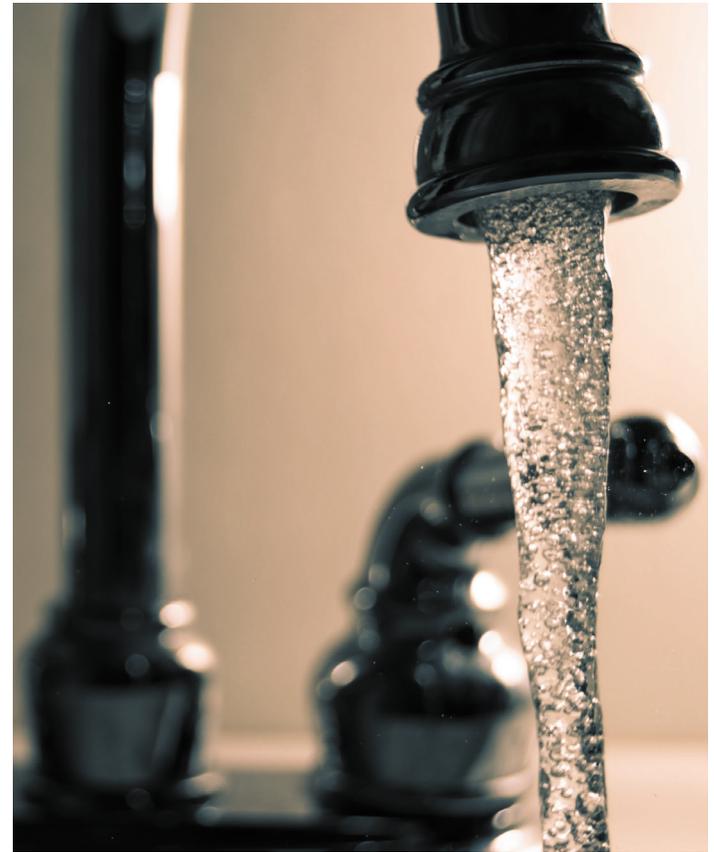
Schedule a test to identify impurities in your water. Because water contamination can happen at any time and/or through a local municipality, an underground well or a

homeowner's own pipes, it is important to have your water tested by an expert who can determine the necessary steps to eliminate any harmful impurities that may be present. While testing can be done at any time, Culligan recommends scheduling a water test specifically after moving into a new house, if appliances that use water are collecting residue or burning out, and as soon as you notice a change in your water's taste, odor or appearance. Well water should also be tested whenever you notice any changes in your water, such as color, taste, odor or cloudiness.

Find a filtration system that meets the needs of your home. Water treatment solutions, such as water softeners, reverse osmosis systems and specialty filters, reduce specific impurities that may be found in your water. Look for options that offer multiple stages of filtration, like

Culligan's groundbreaking Aquasential Smart Reverse Osmosis Drinking Water System, which offers 12 different filter options and is certified to reduce 60 contaminants including lead, arsenic, pharmaceuticals, volatile organic compounds and PFOA/PFOS, plus 15 emerging contaminants. The system's modern design features a drinking water faucet with instant performance feedback in brushed nickel, chrome, matte black and bronze finishes. It also offers a smart device app that gives users intuitive control over the RO system with water alerts, maintenance needs and tools that put tracking water consumption at the tips of homeowners' fingers.

Investing in updated water treatment technology is one of the most important steps you can take to ensure the water in your home is cleaner, safer and free of most harmful contaminants.



FILE PHOTO

Some signs of problem water include corroded plumbing fixtures, unpleasant odors, disagreeable taste, discolored water and shortened appliance lifespan.

HOME OF THE WEEK

Urban Sophistication At Robinson Landing



PHOTO/OLEKS YAROSHYNSKYI, TOWNSEND VISUALS

Left: Gourmet eat-in kitchen with high-end finishes, built-in desk, and wet bar.

Middle Left: Formal living room with gas fireplace.

Middle Right: Corner elevator townhome in Robinson Landing.

Right: Enjoy Potomac River views from the rooftop deck.

Rarely available elevator townhome located in Old Town's waterfront community of Robinson Landing. Sunshine streams through over-sized windows on three sides of this end-unit home. Thoughtful consideration has been given to every detail – enjoy sophisticated finishes, hardwood floors, modern fixtures and elevator access to all four levels. Enter the

residence through the oversized 2-car garage or the large foyer; this level also has an office or 4th bedroom with full en-suite bath. Walk up to the main level featuring an open floor plan with gourmet eat-in kitchen featuring custom Snaidero cabinetry, high-end appliances and access to balcony; living room with gas fireplace, dining room and powder

room. Upstairs, retreat to the primary bedroom suite with modern bathroom, and two custom walk-in closets. A large laundry center and additional bedroom with bath completes this level. The upper level is home to a second family room with wet bar and bedroom with full bath. The rooftop deck is perfect for entertaining guests or enjoying a quiet cup of coffee with

water views of the Potomac. The world-class amenities at Robinson Landing feature a luxury owner's lounge, library, meeting room, fitness center and yoga studio – all with amazing water views. There is also a 24-hour concierge, pet spa and bike storage. Dine in the waterfront restaurants, stroll along the boardwalk and enjoy the best of Old Town living.

AT A GLANCE

Address:

19 Pioneer Mill Way,
Alexandria 22314

Neighborhood:

Robinson Landing

Price: \$3,095,000

Square feet: 3,045

Bedrooms: 4

Bathrooms: 4.5

Year built: 2018

Contact:

Heather Corey

TTR Sotheby's International

Realty, Old Town

hcorey@ttrsir.com

ttrsir.com

703.989.1183

703.310.6800

Our View

Destroying Alexandria's historic character one decision at a time

City Council is about to vote on, and will likely pass, radical changes to height, and therefore density, zoning in Alexandria. In practical terms, this means that Alexandria's Old and Historic District, one of the country's first of its kind – and long the engine that drives the city's tourism industry – will soon be unrecognizable.

This transformation is deliberate, misguided and, to those who care about Alexandria's architectural character, nothing short of tragic.

Quaint Old Town – with its cobblestone streets, 250-year-old homes and battalion of ghosts – will soon be dwarfed by towering buildings that simply don't belong in an historic district. It will undo many decades of effort by hundreds of Alexandria residents, living and deceased, who labored lovingly to preserve our city's beautiful architecture and historic character.

The looming decision will increase the potential height of buildings by 50% along Washington and King streets and, astonishingly, will more than double the possible height of buildings in the heart of Old Town's residential neighborhood at the current sites of the Old Town Safeway and Departmental Progressive Club.

This transformation is not limited to Old Town. Del Ray will also undergo a dramatic jump in building height and density along multiple blocks of "The Avenue" in the heart of that neighborhood.

The destruction of Alexandria's two most distinctive neighborhoods is being done for two reasons: first, as always, at the behest of developers concerned foremost with profits, and second, from a misguided, and mistaken, belief that greater density will make Alexandria more equitable.

It's clear that the current council has little regard for the historic character of Alexandria's Old Town and Del Ray neighborhoods. Equally damning is that the councilors seem oblivious to the history of Alexandria's past 20 years: The city's population explosion has corresponded exactly with the decimation of the city's affordable housing supply. This is not a coincidence.

Redevelopment has claimed thousands of affordable housing units, which have been replaced by high-priced luxury units intermixed with token numbers of affordable units. The net result of replacing inexpensive housing with many more units of expensive housing is to drive the overall cost of housing in Alexandria ever upward.

Ruining the character of both Old Town and Del Ray is about to be done in the name of "equity." Yet what exactly is equitable about degrading the quality of life in Alexandria to the point that residents with the means to do so will move away, while those without those means will be stuck?

Doesn't City Council understand that opposition to seven-story buildings on Mt. Vernon Avenue, on King Street, on Washington Street, and, unbelievably, at the intersection of Royal and Gibbon streets, isn't because of a nefarious desire to keep lower-income people out of those neighborhoods, but rather because residents don't want behemoth structures towering over their homes, schools and parks?

It seems that current city planners and council members are both in thrall to the urbanist flavor du jour and also terrified of opposing anything that someone has branded as being "equitable," regardless of whether that label is either warranted or worth the cost.

There are many types of costs. In this instance the cost isn't money, it's something priceless.

Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson

Photo of the Week



PHOTO/THEODORE THORPE III

Three Alexandria City High School choirs, led by Theodore Thorpe III, director of choral activities, took all three eligible first place superior awards, along with a fourth award for "spirit de corps" for showing the best chorus spirit at Music in The Parks in Williamsburg, Virginia on May 13. The Titans' Advanced Choir won first place, superior, grand champ; Colore Dolce won first place, superior, grand champ; and Mixed Choir won first place, superior.

Your Views

The importance of Washington Street

To the editor:

The City of Alexandria is proposing a zoning change encompassing Washington Street that opens the door to permit construction of buildings beyond the current maximum heights of 50 to a possible height of 75 feet. The proposal would irrevocably change the character and feel of Washington Street, made worse by the city describing it as a likely area to make the use of the zoning change.

The City of Alexandria had lobbied the federal government hard to have the George Washington Memorial Highway run through the city on Washington Street, which was agreed to on conditions, referred to as the 1929 agreement. The city and the federal government entered the agreement governing the disposition of Washington Street on June 20, 1929.

SEE HERTEL

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Alexandria's education decline

To the editor:

When I first moved into the city suburbs, in Alexandria's West End, T.C. Williams High School had a good-to-great reputation for scholastics. I happened upon the latest version of U.S. News and World Reports' ratings of public high schools in the nation. When reviewing the state of Virginia, our esteemed

city high school came in at number 247 out of 332 schools rated. By my math skills, that puts Alexandria City High School in the lowest 30% of the state. I was disappointed to see this and honestly wonder why the quality of our education system has slipped so badly?

-Donald Kula,
Alexandria

HERTEL

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Some of the key elements included the following two provisions:

"to restrict the said street to residential and business development of such character and of such types of building as will be in keeping with the Quality purpose and memorial character of said highway."

"The City hereby agrees that it will enact any and all ordinances, and do any and all things necessary to carry into effect this Agreement and that it will enact no ordinance nor take into any other action which will be in conflict herewith or contrary to the purpose or intent hereof."

The National Park Service further interpreted this to mean that, "There should be public impression that Washington Street is connected in some way (physically, thematically, or in some other positive way) with the parkway."

By 1946, the city had so abused the agreement that the federal government threatened to move the Memorial Parkway away from Washington Street to the waterfront for condemning buildings that were considered inappropriate. Instead, the city agreed to create the Historic District to protect the integrity and purpose of the George Washington Memorial Highway.

The city did not have any height restrictions, and in the early sixties, the issue came up regard-

ing Washington Street. This is referred to as the "height limit crisis" and was precipitated by a building proposal on Washington Street. In conjunction therewith, a 50-foot height limit was placed on Washington Street precisely to keep the memorial character of Washington Street intact. As a result, the 50-foot height limit was also enacted for the entire Historic District.

In the year 2000, the Washington Street ad Hoc Task Force discussed the possibility of reducing the height further on Washington Street, but at no point considered or believed height increases to be a possibility. On the contrary, the existing height limits were thought to be integral to the maintenance of the integrity of the Memorial Highway.

The George Washington Memorial Parkway is not just a street, but rather the impetus for the entire Historic District, and by inference, it is responsible for Alexandria's place on the tourist maps. It inculcates a heritage that warrants sharing with the world, as people from all over the globe make a pilgrimage from Washington D.C. to Mount Vernon to pay their respects to the father of this country. The Parkway also represents a trust placed on the city by the federal government that it would maintain the highway for the purpose and dignity that it was envisioned to convey.

-Poul Hertel,
Alexandria

My View | Frank Putzu

Misguided approach to single-family zoning

BY FRANK PUTZU

Single-family homeowners are increasingly coming under attack in Alexandria, and it's about to get uglier.

City officials are planning to propose new zoning reforms aligned with the City of Minneapolis, which eliminated single-family zones in favor of hyper density. The rationale for new proposals to end so-called "restrictive" zoning and add "infill" housing to neighborhoods currently protected from overdevelopment is that single-family zoning intentionally perpetuates discrimination, and that new policies must be adopted to end this form of "apartheid," as Mayor Justin Wilson has claimed in pressing for housing reforms.

Wilson and other Alexandria officials are currently fixated with citing Richard Rothstein's book, "The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America," as the basis for their zeal to eliminate single family housing. The book is interesting, perhaps more for the fact that it has come under withering peer criticism for being – as reviewers have noted – a "simple story featuring conspiracies and one-dimensional villains" and "comfort food."

In contrast, another more recent and much-cited book on the same topic is "Moving Toward Integration: The Past and Future of Fair Housing," written by UCLA professors of law, sociology and economics. Reviewers have noted that it concludes that "housing discrimination is no longer a major impediment to integration and that, despite a slow and erratic record, the U.S. is winning the battle against housing segregation."

Unlike the post-war period, modern policies must be specifically tailored to precise facts in the locality. They suggest, for example, "mobility grants," which would assist homebuyers to integrate any neighborhood lacking diversity and "affordability easements" in deeds, especially in neighborhoods in the midst or at risk of gentrification.

In other words, "Moving Toward Integration" actually undermines the city's rationale for dismantling single-family neighborhoods under the guise of achieving social equity and shoving hyper density down your street, whether you originally chose to live in a dense part of Alexandria

or not. The city relies too much on breaking down what is working and not enough on improving what we have.

Another well-cited criticism of Rothstein's approach to housing reform is that he is "vague on the details and even more vague on matters of cost."

Combined with the fact that there is no concrete evidence that eliminating single-family zoning actually increases the supply of affordable housing or improves diversity, the coming zoning reforms will almost surely erode or eliminate any sense of certainty around what can be built on any

given residential site. What this intervention will mean for residents and property owners is anyone's guess.

Rothstein himself once cautioned in an interview: "Of course, many of the advocates of reform focus on trying to preserve a share of housing in the gentrifying neighborhoods for the previous residents. They're usually unsuccessful, but even if

they were successful, the majority of those residents would be displaced." This pattern is exactly what we have seen in Alexandria.

Del Ray, for instance, was once an affordable and diverse community. Post-gentrification, it appears to be the most expensive and least diverse neighborhood in Alexandria, according to the data collection site, city-data.com.

Also indisputable is the recurring pattern of developers committing pathetic numbers of affordable units in luxury developments where affordable housing once stood in Alexandria. We have all seen Alexandria get less affordable as it has grown denser.

And by the way, it's not going so well in Minneapolis, either. According to a recent report by the Minneapolis Star Tribune, the city has lost 14,000 residents during the last year as people flee the city's degrading quality of life.

In the end, our city officials appear to be interested in density for density's sake, not to address underlying social issues.

Alexandrians interested in this issue should read "Moving Toward Integration." It is a work of strong scholarship and research. City planners would be wise to read it, and move away from polemics.

The writer is a West End resident.



FRANK
PUTZU

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

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Freedom House Museum to reopen

Historic Alexandria continues its celebration of Historic Preservation Month by announcing that the Freedom House Museum at 1315 Duke St. will reopen on May 27 with three new exhibitions showcasing Alexandria's Black history and the Black experience in America. A grand opening event is scheduled for June 20, during the observation of the Juneteenth holiday.

The museum will be open to the public Fridays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays and Mondays from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 per adult, \$3 per child ages 5–12 and free for City of Alexandria residents. Due to high demand and limited capacity, it is recommended to reserve tickets in advance online.

The National Historic Landmark is what remains of a large complex dedicated to trafficking thousands of Black men, women

and children between 1828 and 1861. The museum honors the lives and experiences of the enslaved and free Black people who lived in – and were trafficked through – Alexandria.

The exhibits depict the roles of the historic site and Alexandria in the domestic slave trade, and share inspiring stories of African Americans in our community on three floors of the museum:

- 1315 Duke St. highlights the stories of people brought from the Chesapeake Bay area, moved through 1315 Duke St., and forced into slave markets in the deep South. The exhibit includes archaeological artifacts, a model of the complex and stories of personal experiences of individuals trafficked through the domestic slave trade.

- Determined: The 400-Year Struggle for Black Equality, a traveling exhibition from the Virginia Museum of History and

Culture, traces four centuries of Black history in Virginia through stories of extraordinary individuals who struggled for equality and, in the process, profoundly shaped the nature of American society and the meaning of our collective ideals. A companion exhibit: Determined in Alexandria features Black Alexandrians who built the foundations of our community while fighting for equality.

- Before the Spirits Are Swept Away is a series of paintings of African American sites by the late Sherry Z. Sanabria. The third floor also includes a reflection space with a bronze model, or maquette, of Alexandria's well-known Edmonson Sisters sculpture by artist Erik Blome, a gift to the Office of Historic Alexandria from former City Manager Mark Jinks and his wife, Eileen Jinks.

Due to the pandemic, the Freedom House Museum

closed on March 17, 2020. On March 24, 2020, the City of Alexandria purchased the building from the Urban League of Northern Virginia. During the pandemic, work continued to protect and interpret the building including completing the Historic Structures Report, research and the creation of three new exhibits. The Freedom House Museum site is integral to the understanding of Black history in Alexandria and the United States. It is part of Alexandria's large collection of historic sites, tours, markers and more that depict stories of the Colonial era through the Civil War and Civil Rights eras to today.

Visit alexandriava.gov/FreedomHouse for more information.

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

Put the fourth ship in a museum

To the editor:

I have followed the saga of the four colonial era merchant ships intentionally buried carefully in damp earth on the Potomac River shore, ever since the first one was discovered underneath what is now the Hotel Indigo.

I fervently hope the plan to save three of the ships by submerging them in the manmade

pond at Ben Brenman Park works just as city employees describe it. My concern is that their description included the word “innovative.” That is an optimistic word which could mean just “never tried before.”

So whether this plan works for as long as 25 years is questionable. We live in the time of global warming and our warming world is sure to present us with prob-

lems we have yet to contemplate.

Meanwhile the fourth ship, the one pictured in the newspaper, is still being chemically treated at a research facility in Texas. The treatment will allow that ship to be displayed above ground indoors. Putting that ship in a museum setting would make it the only such exhibit anywhere in the Americas.

The Danes, some years ago, found and rescued several Viking-era ships scuttled in the Copenhagen harbor, wooden hulks preserved for many centuries in the cold North Atlantic water. Since the other colonial ships are in Ben Brenman Pond, the museum building might be located nearby.

*-Katy Cannady,
Alexandria*

Weekly Poll

Last Week

Do you possess Narcan?

59% No, and I don't plan to get any.

23% I'm not sure what that is.

9% Yes.

8% No, but I plan to get some.

This Week

Take the poll at alextimes.com

Should City Council change zoning laws to allow seven-story buildings built on Mt. Vernon Ave., King St., Washington St. and residential areas like the Old Town Safeway and Departmental Progressive Club?

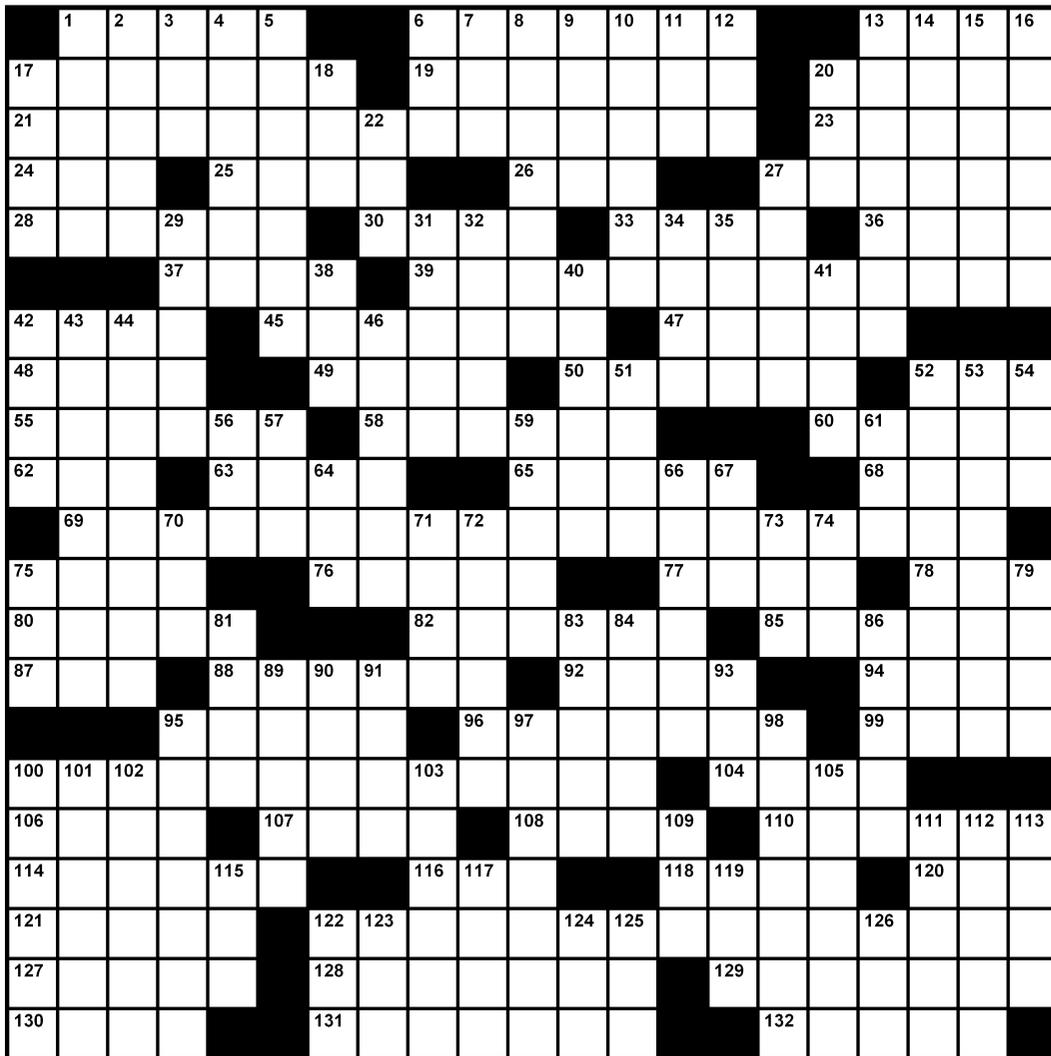
A) Yes.

B) No.

C) Yes, on Mt. Vernon Ave. but not in Old Town.

D) Yes, in Old Town but not on Mt. Vernon Ave.

Weekly Words



NOW C HERE by Zachary David Levy, edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS

- 1 Former Iranian rulers
- 6 Healthy sprout source
- 13 Evolutionary time periods
- 17 Cardinal sin of broadcasting
- 19 Event where alumni mingle
- 20 Poke around
- 21 C + 117-Down?
- 23 Tech support whiz
- 24 CBS franchise with a Vegas sequel series
- 25 Dole (out)
- 26 Something to look through?
- 27 Plaster mural
- 28 Number puzzle invented by Tetsuya Miyamoto
- 30 Tolkien trilogy, for short
- 33 Not bad, but not great
- 36 Currency in Iran
- 37 Crisp set in a den
- 39 C + 4-Down?
- 42 <p>Code that this clue suggests</p>
- 45 Fit for the job
- 47 Strongly advised
- 48 Cookie since 1912
- 49 Lead-in to "zone" or "centric"
- 50 Flexible
- 52 DOJ org.
- 55 PC key for vertical scrolling
- 58 Like a jacket's lining
- 60 "Me too!"

62 Name within "Nevada"

- 63 Meeting, informally
- 65 Request permission for
- 68 Exam for a future atty.
- 69 C + 13-Down?
- 75 Flower ____ (wedding figure)
- 76 Menzel who voiced Elsa in "Frozen"
- 77 Region
- 78 Item for steering a gondola
- 80 Hard to approach
- 82 Homes made of snow
- 85 Beleaguer
- 87 Taxpayer's ID
- 88 County for Disneyland ... or much of Disney World
- 92 Camper's place
- 94 ____ eagle
- 95 Quick on your feet
- 96 Shrunken body of water at the edge of Kazakhstan
- 99 Golden rule word
- 100 C + 84-Down?
- 104 What a hitchhiker wants
- 106 Sworn statement
- 107 Caesar's accusation
- 108 Mice move all over them
- 110 Filmed again, as a scene
- 114 Bewhiskered sea creatures
- 116 Rodent of the Chinese zodiac
- 118 Teen outbreak
- 120 Gorilla, e.g.

121 Actress Knightley of "Anna Karenina"

- 122 C + 46-Down?
 - 127 Made a boo-boo
 - 128 Go faster
 - 129 Oahu and others
 - 130 Like some hair or T-shirts
 - 131 Game officials?
 - 132 Racy messages
- DOWN**
- 1 Smell or sight
 - 2 Didn't leave standing outside
 - 3 Fruit drink suffix
 - 4 Caused damage to
 - 5 Introduction to an homage?
 - 6 Noah's vessel
 - 7 ____ & Perrins steak sauce
 - 8 Solemn service
 - 9 Raggedy Ann's brother
 - 10 "In this way"
 - 11 Friend's opposite
 - 12 At least one
 - 13 Joined, as a contest
 - 14 Cute mistake
 - 15 S.F.'s region
 - 16 Sewing kit cylinders
 - 17 Daisy or Donald
 - 18 Decay
 - 20 Drill sergeant's title, perhaps
 - 22 Pixar picture
 - 27 Smithy's furnace

DEATH NOTICES

LAMBRINI PIZANIAS (74),

formerly of Alexandria, May 17, 2022

CHRISTOPHER JOSEPH HENDERSON (50),

formerly of Alexandria, May 11, 2022

BARRY EVAN WEINSTEIN (64),

of Alexandria, May 6, 2022

SADA JOHNSON (85), of Alexandria, May 8, 2022

Solutions from last week



- 29 One of the Kardashians
- 31 Midwestern airport near Midway
- 32 2007 Heisman Trophy winner Tim
- 34 Egg in a fertility clinic
- 35 Belgrade resident
- 38 Be in the running
- 40 "Mmm, scrumptious!"
- 41 Pronoun for Supergirl
- 42 Sincere desire
- 43 Difficult endeavors
- 44 "Transformers" villain
- 46 Went hastily
- 51 Jet-black
- 52 Product line?
- 53 Excessively
- 54 Like bodybuilders
- 56 Take advantage of
- 57 Annoyance for a princess
- 59 Of birth
- 61 Flamenco cry
- 64 Comp ____ (coder's subj.)
- 66 Raises a glass
- 67 Adjective for us
- 70 Middle Eastern grp.
- 71 Kristen of "Bridesmaids"
- 72 No longer neutral?
- 73 Bench press unit
- 74 "On the Road" narrator
- 75 It cost 21-30 cents per gallon in the 1920s

- 79 Fresh attempt
- 81 Curmudgeon, maybe
- 83 Tennis star Naomi ... or her Japanese birthplace
- 84 Prepared, as a pan
- 86 Borders on
- 89 Ceremonial acts
- 90 Very much
- 91 Egg holder
- 93 Fish in an unagi roll
- 95 Became attached
- 97 Current to avoid
- 98 "His ____" (Michael Jordan nickname)
- 100 Swindled
- 101 Place to grab a bite
- 102 What has you covered?
- 103 Nat who led an uprising in 1831
- 105 Lacking strength
- 109 Rested on a bench
- 111 Frequent hangout
- 112 Pundits' newspaper pieces
- 113 Julia's "Ocean's Eleven" role
- 115 "Far out!"
- 117 Like fine wine
- 119 X, in Greece
- 122 NYC-to-Ocean City dir.
- 123 Single or double brew (Abbr.)
- 124 Convent member
- 125 Way finder, briefly
- 126 Not strict

CALENDAR

MAY 20



BIKE TO WORK DAY This free, annual event encourages the public to consider bicycle commuting as an affordable, efficient and environmentally friendly way of getting to work. Alexandria residents will be among many area commuters who celebrate Bike to Work Day by cycling to pit stops and participating in special events around the city and throughout the region.
Time: 6 to 9:30 a.m.
Location: Varies
Information:
<https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=43324>

MAY 22



OLD TOWN FESTIVAL OF SPEED & STYLE This annual event highlights the special offerings of the Old Town community, such as its history, architecture, food and style. All proceeds from this event will benefit USO Washington-Baltimore and ALIVE! Attendees can view dozens of rare and exotic cars up close and enjoy live music provided by more than 40 local merchants.
Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Location: Throughout Old Town
Information:
www.visitalexandriava.com/event/old-town-festival-of-speed-%26-style/18234/

FREE BOOK TALK: THE HOWE DYNASTY Julie Flavell's new book, "The Howe Dynasty," offers a reinterpretation of one of England's most famous military families through the eyes of the Howe women. Through a reassessment of the entire family, "The Howe Dynasty" forces readers to reimagine the Revolutionary War in ways that previously would have been inconceivable. The event will include a talk by the author and a subsequent book signing.
Time: 7 p.m.
Location: 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway
Information:
www.visitalexandriava.com/event/free-book-talk%3a-the-howe-dynasty/18880/

LEGAL NOTICE



ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION & CITY COUNCIL JUNE 2022

The items described below will be heard by the Planning Commission and the City Council on the dates and times listed below. NOTICE: Some of the items listed below may be placed on a Consent Calendar. A consent item will be approved at the beginning of the meeting without discussion unless someone asks that it be taken off the Consent Calendar and considered separately. The Planning Commission reserves the right to recess and continue the Public Hearing to a future date. For further information, call the Department of Planning & Zoning at 703.746.4666 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/dockets.

ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022
7:00 PM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL
SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022
9:30 AM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

The June 7, 2022 Alexandria Planning Commission Public Hearing and the June 18, 2022 Alexandria City Council Public Hearing are being held in the Council Chamber (301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314) and electronically. Members of the Planning Commission, City Council, and staff are participating in-person. The Planning Commission and City Council Public Hearings can be accessed by the public in the City Council Chamber, through the live broadcast on the government channel 70, streaming on the City's website, and can be accessed via Zoom Webinar by the following links:

Planning Commission (Public Hearing Webinar):
The Zoom Webinar will open at 6:30 p.m. to allow indi-

viduals to join, while the Planning Commission hearing will begin at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Registration Link:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wwYfuJvPRou7Cpy-Qevu2Q

Zoom Audio Conference:
Dial in: 301-715-8592
Webinar ID: 914 1872 2672
Password: 333243
City Council (Public Hearing Webinar):

Registration Link:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_t6Dj_yvRTyuf1vhWPJyxZA

Zoom Audio Conference:
Dial in: 301-715-8592
Webinar ID: 990 9589 6474
Password: 501291
If you use the Zoom Webinar application, please be sure you have updated the application to the latest version for the best results. If you are unable to access the Zoom Webinar, please use the Dial-In number to access the meeting.

Public comment will be received at the meetings. The public may submit comments in advance to Department of Planning & Zoning staff at PlanComm@alexandriava.gov for the Planning Commission Hearing; to the City Clerk at CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov for the City Council Hearing; or make public comments on the day of either Hearing.

For reasonable disability accommodation for the Planning Commission Hearing, contact Jackie Cato at jackie.cato@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.3810, Virginia Relay 711. For reasonable disability accommodation for the City Council Hearing, please call the City Clerk and Clerk of Council's Office at 703.746.4550 (TTY/TDD 838-5056). We request that you provide a 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made.

Special Use Permit #2022-00018
1605 and 1611 Mount Vernon Avenue
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit to allow for the continued use of a nonconforming vehicle parking and storage lot associated with an

Classifieds

automobile sales and repair dealership until December 31, 2045 (amending SUP #2010-00052); zoned: CL/Commercial Low. Applicant: Alexandria Hyundai, LLC, represented by M. Catharine Puskar, attorney/agent.

Special Use Permit #2022-00024
1101 King Street
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit for a conversion from nonresidential to residential use for the upper floors of an existing building including a parking reduction; zoned KR/King Street urban retail. Applicant: AREP SOF III King Street LLC, represented by Kenneth W. Wire, attorney

Rezoning #2022-00002
31 and 33 East Bellefonte Avenue
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for an amendment to the official zoning map to change the zone from R-2-5/Single- and two-family to RB/Townhouse; zoned R-2-5/Single- and two-family. Applicant: Megan Lantz, Catherine Oh, and Michelle Taylor, represented by Kim Robbert

Encroachment #2022-00001
300 Hume Avenue
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for an Encroachment into the public rights-of-way along Hume Avenue and Turner Road for a fence; zoned: R-2-5/Single- and two family. Applicant: Jeffrey W. Howard and Jenafer B. Howard, represented by Duncan W. Blair, attorney

Zoning Text Amendment #2022-00008
(A) Initiation of a text amendment and (B) public hearing and consideration of a text amendment to the zoning ordinance to amend various sections of Article II to correct technical errors, to clarify open space and floor area regulations as related to accessory structures, and to define principal building; to amend section 7-103 to allow certain accessory structures forward of a front building wall for non-residential lots; to amend sections 7-301 and 12-213 to clarify language related to home occupation limitations; to amend section 7-902 to clarify language related to zone transition setbacks; to amend section 11-1302 to

specify what is authorized by special exception approval; and to amend section 12-102 to correct a technical error related to residential reuse. Staff: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning & Zoning

Development Special Use Permit #2021-10022
3120 Colvin Street - Colvin Street Garage
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Development Special Use Permit and Site Plan with modifications to construct a 2-story commercial building for general auto repair and a warehouse, including a Special Use Permit to increase the Floor Area Ratio to 0.96; zoned: I/Industrial. Applicant: Khanh Nguyen

Public Hearing and consideration of the FY 2023 Long Range Planning Interdepartmental Work Program Staff: City of Alexandria, Departments of Planning & Zoning, Office of Housing, Transportation & Environmental Services, and Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Activities

THE FOLLOWING ITEM WILL BE HEARD BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION ONLY AND BY CITY COUNCIL ONLY UPON APPEAL:
Development Site Plan #2021-00012
Subdivision #2022-00005
5801 and 6001 Duke Street - Landmark Mall Infrastructure
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Development Site Plan for the construction of sitewide infrastructure for the Landmark Mall redevelopment and a Subdivision with street dedication to subdivide 5801 Duke Street into eight lots; zoned CDD #29/Coordinated Development District #29. Applicant: Landmark Land Holdings, LLC, represented by Kenneth W. Wire, attorney

Development Site Plan #2022-00005
951 North Fairfax Street - Perfect Pita addition
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Development Site Plan to construct an addition that is more than a third of the commercial building's existing gross square footage, with a modification to the street tree planting requirement; zoned: OCM(50)/Office Commercial Medium (50).

Classifieds

Applicant: Atilla & Carol Kan

LEGAL NOTICE



The Alexandria City School Board will hold a **public hearing** on the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund Plan on **June 2, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.**

Comments will be heard in-person in the School Board Meeting Room at 1340 Braddock Place in Alexandria, virtually through Zoom, or submitted as written comments. Only topics related to the ESSER III Plan will be heard during the public hearing.

Sign up to speak or submit written comments by noon on June 1.

Sign up to speak at: <https://acpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/wly82d0109g4g30/>

Submit written comments to the Clerk of the Board at: boardclerk@acps.k12.va.us

Submit written comments by U.S. Mail at:
Clerk of the Board,
Alexandria City School Board
1340 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA 22314

For more information, please contact the Clerk of the Board at 703-619-8316 or at the email listed above.

LEGAL NOTICE



**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
FIRST HALF
2022 REAL ESTATE TAX,
REFUSE FEE AND
STORMWATER UTILITY FEE
ARE DUE JUNE 15, 2022**

The City of Alexandria has mailed bills for the first half 2022 real estate tax, refuse fee, and stormwater utility fee to all property owners and/or mortgage companies. The calendar year 2022 real estate tax rate is \$1.11 per \$100 of assessed value. Payment must be received by June 15, 2022, to avoid

late payment penalty and interest.

Payments can be made online at alexandriava.gov/Payments or mailed to: City of Alexandria, P.O. Box 34750, Alexandria, VA 22334-0750.

In-person payments are also accepted 24 hours a day at the City Hall drop box on the Royal Street side of the building or in the Treasury Division, Room 1510, Monday-Friday, 8AM-5PM. Payments must be in the drop box by midnight on June 15, 2022, to be considered on time.

General real estate tax information is available on the City's website at alexandriava.gov/RealEstateTax. Detailed assessment, tax balance, and payment information is available at realestate.alexandriava.gov.

For payment questions or to request a tax bill, please call the Treasury Division at 703.746.4800, or email payments@alexandriava.gov. For assessment questions or to change a mailing address, please email realestate@alexandriava.gov. For questions on refuse fees or stormwater utility fees, please call Alex311 at 703.746.4311 or submit questions online at alexandriava.gov/Alex311.

LEGAL NOTICE



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

A Public Hearing will be held by the Board of Architectural Review on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, room 2400, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 on the following applications:

BAR #2022-00206 OHAD
Request for partial demolition/encapsulation at 601 Princess Street.
Applicant: Anne Craner

BAR #2022-00205 OHAD
Request for alterations and addition at 601 Princess Street.
Applicant: Anne Craner

BAR #2022-00210 OHAD

Request for alterations at 1101 King Street.
Applicant: Florent Defelcourt
BAR #2022-00223 OHAD
Request for partial demolition at 106 North Lee Street.
Applicant: Scott Shaw
BAR #2022-00228 OHAD

Request for demolition/encapsulation at 212 South Pitt Street.
Applicant: Greg and Nancy Woodford

BAR #2022-00227 OHAD
Request for alterations and addition at 212 South Pitt Street.
Applicant: Greg and Nancy Woodford

BAR #2022-00229 OHAD
Request for alterations (signage) at 323 South Fairfax Street.
Applicant: Old Presbyterian Meeting House

BAR #2022-00230 OHAD
Request for alterations at 826 South Lee Street.
Applicant: Christopher and Sarah Miller

BAR #2022-00235 OHAD
Request for demolition/encapsulation at 826 South Lee Street.
Applicant: Christopher and Sarah Miller

BAR #2022-00232 PG
Request for demolition/encapsulation at 419 North West Street.
Applicant: Marks-Woods Construction Services LLC

BAR #2022-00231 PG
Request for alterations at 419 North West Street.
Applicant: Marks-Woods Construction Services LLC

BAR #2021-00329 OHAD
Request for demolition/encapsulation at 105 North Alfred Street.
Applicant: Bruce and Thelma MacGregor

BAR #2021-00324 OHAD
Request for alterations at 105 North Alfred Street.
Applicant: Bruce and Thelma MacGregor

Old and Historic Alexandria District (OHAD); Parker - Gray District (PG)
Public comments will be

received at the Public Hearing. The public may submit comments in advance to Samantha Lockwood at samantha.lockwood@alexandriava.gov or make public comments on the day of the Public Hearing.

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE



**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING
Monday, June 13, 2022 - 7:00 PM
Council Chambers, City Hall
301 King Street, Room 2400
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

Information about this Public Hearing may be obtained from the Department of Planning & Zoning, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: 703-746-4666 or on the City's website at www.alexandriava.gov/dockets

Public comments will be received at the Public Hearing. The public may submit comments in advance to Owen Albrecht at owen.albrecht@alexandriava.gov or make public comments on the day of the Public Hearing.

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Jackie Cato at jackie.cato@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-3810, Virginia Relay 711.

BZA #2022-00006
322 & 324 South Lee Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for Variance to access parking from the street rather than from an alley or interior court; zoned: RM/Townhouse.
Applicant: Avonlea LLC, a Virginia limited liability company
Deferred from the April Hearing.

BZA #2022-00011
3501 Wilson Avenue, Alexandria VA
Public Hearing and consid-

eration of a request for a Special Exception to construct an addition in the secondary front yard; zoned: RB/Townhouse.
Applicants: Gabriel Fry & Mariah Taylor

BZA #2022-00010
1416 Janney's Ln, Alexandria VA
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Variance for an after the fact construction of an accessory structure which increases the floor area ratio above the maximum permitted; zoned: R-20/Single-Family.
Applicants: Phil P. Garrett & Dawn M. Garrett

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COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Riverside Gardens Community Yard Sale. Saturday May 21st. Rain Date Sunday May 22nd. 8 AM - 1 PM Stable Drive and Stirrup Lane, Alexandria VA 22308.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever!

LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-614-6667

GENERAC Standby Generators provide backup power during utility power outages, so your home and family stay safe and comfortable. Prepare now. Free 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!). Request a free quote today! Call for additional terms and conditions. 1-877-636-0738

The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-833-688-1378



Donna Cramer

REALTOR

Thank you to all who donated to Community Lodgings on Spring2Action Day!



Under Contract

3915 ELBERT AVENUE
22305 | Sunnyside
3 Bed | 3.5 Bath | \$795,000

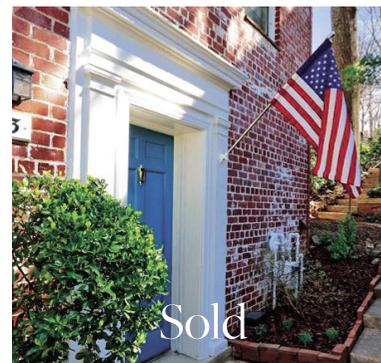
Over \$100,000 in recent home improvements, including new HVAC, roof, gutters/downspouts, deck, fence, patio, and more!



Sold

1512 CRESTWOOD DRIVE
22302 | Dyes Oakcrest
3 Bed | 2.5 Bath | \$1,325,003

Classic brick center hall colonial that has been lovingly maintained and expanded to accommodate many of today's desires



Sold

3313 VALLEY DRIVE
22302 | Parkfairfax
2 Bed | 2 Bath | \$475,000

Lincoln model with extra large flagstone patio renovated in 2022. Represented the buyer.



Sold

505 E BRADDOCK RD #304
22314 | Colecroft
2 Bed | 1 Bath | \$440,000

Bright two-bedroom condo with new flooring, fresh neutral paint, washer and dryer in the unit, and one parking space.

Donna Cramer, Realtor®

We're in this together, and I will guide you home.

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703.627.9578 | dcramer@mcenearney.com | donnacramer.com

109 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.549.9292 | Equal Housing Opportunity

