

RETURN TO THE DEPTHS

Re-sinking of historic ship to start at Ben Brenman Pond

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

On Monday, Alexandria started the process of re-sinking three historic ship hulls at Ben Brenman Park Pond that were recovered along the city's waterfront in the past seven years. Following several years of study, the approximately \$400,000 submersion project has begun in order to preserve the hulls.

"These were truly significant and very large findings that tell us a lot about Alexandria's history when it was a thriving port," City Archaeologist Eleanor Breen said. "These ships really built Alexandria because they weren't shipwrecks in the traditional sense, but instead reused derelict hulls that became land-

fill as land was being built out into the deeper channels of the Potomac River."

Archaeologists working for developers along the waterfront discovered the first of the hulls in 2015, near the current Hotel Indigo site. That ship is currently undergoing restorative treatment at Texas A&M University.

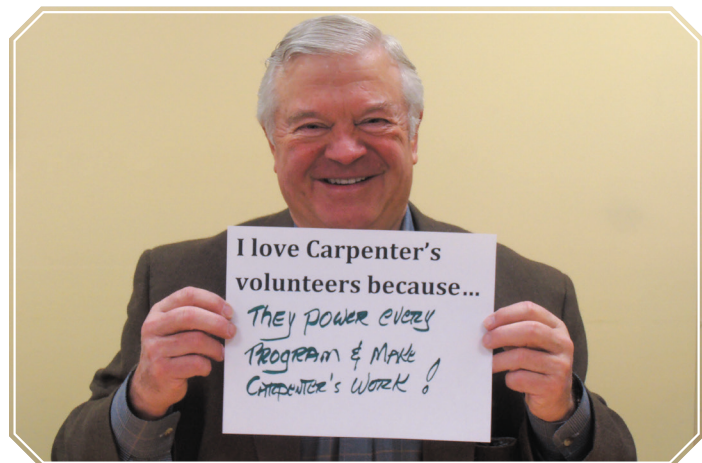
Then, three years later, three additional hull remnants were discovered at the Robinson Landing site. Those have been kept in storage at a city warehouse in tanks of water to prevent the wood from decaying and will be relocated to the man-made pond in Ben Brenman Park.

Since the excavations, city staff and partners have been closely studying the hulls. Texas A&M University



PHOTO/OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

SEE **SHIP RESINKING** | 6 Archeologists excavate a ship at the Robinson Landing site in 2018.



COURTESY PHOTO

Longtime Carpenter's Shelter supporter Carson Lee Fifer died on April 21 after an extended illness. He was 79.

Carpenter's supporter Carson Lee Fifer dies

Alexandria Living Legend committed to helping the homeless

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

Carson Lee Fifer, an Alexandria Living Legend and longtime supporter of Carpenter's Shelter, died on April 21 after an extended illness. He was 79.

The lifelong Alexandrian

built a name for himself in the community as someone who, through his contributions to organizations like the homeless shelter, Chamber of Commerce and Christ Church, valued giving back and bringing people together.

Shannon Steen, the current executive director at Car-

SEE **FIFER**

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Project looks to expand dogs' lifespans.

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Student reviews Alexandria City High School's "Little Shop of Horrors."

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Christine Roland Garner

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WEEKLY BRIEFING

Spring2ACTion raises \$2.6 million

As of Wednesday, ACT for Alexandria raised \$2,645,843 for 172 nonprofits during Spring2ACTion, Alexandria's community-wide Giving Day. Though the official event took place on April 27, the total donation number is still being tallied.

Now in its 12th annual year, the fundraiser works to engage community members in raising critical funds for local nonprofits. This year, it reached 7,694 individ-

ual donors. Last year, Spring2ACTion raised \$2,578,122 for 156 organizations with 8,591 individual donors contributing. Since it began in 2011, ACT for Alexandria has raised more than \$19 million for local nonprofits.

Participating nonprofits respond to needs such as health care, housing and food insecurity, environmental conservation, education and refugee assistance. Some of the funds raised this year

will go toward an emergency shelter, providing tutoring for students, meals for families, supplies for afterschool programs, financial assistance for rent and mental health services.

The three nonprofits that raised the most money during this year's giving day include RunningBrooke at \$158,042, Casa Chirilagua at \$117,008 and Friends of Guest House at \$113,596.

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ACHS student receives writing award

Trini Rogando, an Alexandria City High School senior, received the Gold Medal Portfolio, the highest honor in the 99th annual Scholastic Art and Creative Writing Awards, traditionally known as the most prestigious recognition for creative teenagers in America, according to a

news release.

Rogando will receive a \$10,000 scholarship after her work was deemed the most creative out of 260,000 works of art and writing that were originally submitted. Rogando's writing portfolio, titled "Basic Biology," consisted of six pieces of writing centered around

different characters all of who live as queer women in unsupportive religious communities.

Previous teenage Scholastic Awards recipients include Stephen King, Andy Warhol, Joyce Carol Oates and Kay WalkingStick.

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episcopalhighschool.org

Theogony names new editors

Theogony, Alexandria City High School's media organization, named seven current students, three juniors and four seniors, as editors on April 29, according to a news release.

With rising senior Nora Malone as the only returning student to the organization, six other students by the names – Guy Cardwell; Lilliana Escobar; Emily Milton; Yahney-Marie Sangare; Harper Travis and Chloe Yotkis – will be tasked with leading the production of publishing Theogony in print, as well as online, on television and on social media.

All seven students bring different areas of expertise and background, yet they all share in the same sentiment of excitement for next year's



COURTESY PHOTO

Front row, left to right: Chloe Yokitis, Nora Malone, Yahney-Marie Sangare and Lilliana Escobar. **Back row, left to right:** Emily Milton, Guy Cardwell and Harper Travis.

Theogony production. From leaders of clubs like Asian Pacific Islander Club and Garden Club to working with the School Board and even working with local government agencies on issues such as teen pregnancy, each student is involved in the Alexandria

community and the ACHS community. Some have been involved with journalism since the day they stepped on ACHS' campus, while others are still developing their expertise.

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Local organizations given grants

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia awarded more than \$600,000 in grants to 50 local organizations throughout the region, including eight organizations in Alexandria, according to a new release.

The \$613,735 awarded this year is the largest in the foundation's history. The eight Alexandria organizations that earned grants represent specific service areas like aging; child and youth development; education; environ-

mentalism and mental health support.

The Spitfire Club, a local extracurricular book club, earned a \$10,000 grant to help fund nine weeks' worth of fall programming. Child and Family Network Centers and Together We Bake also received \$10,000 grants that will go toward addressing racial equity gaps and recruitment efforts, respectively.

Carpenter's Shelter and Rebuilding Together were awarded \$10,000 grants

that will go toward helping Alexandria's homeless and low-income homeowners, respectively.

In local arts, Alexandria Choral Society received \$5,000 and the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra received \$20,000.

Communities in Schools received the largest grant out of any Alexandria organization – \$25,000 – to maintain its K-12 programming for 2,750 students and 1,550 families.

[-cmelloklein@alextimes.com](mailto:cmelloklein@alextimes.com)

Early voting begins tomorrow ★★★★★

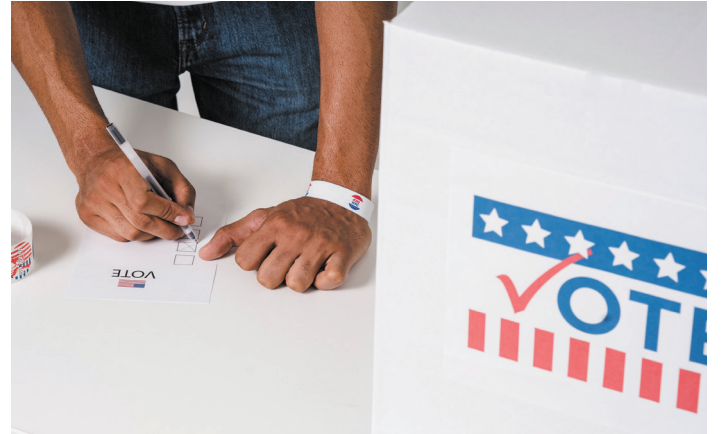
Get your ballots ready.

Early voting begins tomorrow for the June 21 Democratic Primary election, which includes a contest for the U.S. House of Representatives between incumbent Don Beyer and new candidate Victoria Virasingh.

The 8th District Republican Committee will hold a convention on May 21 to elect the party's nominee for the Nov. 8 general election. Candidates include Monica Carpio; Jeff Jordan; Heerak Kim; Karina Lipsman and Kezia Tunnell.

Independent candidate Teddy Fikre will also appear on the November ballot.

The deadline to vote early is June 18 at 5 p.m. In-person voting will take place at the Office of Voter Registration & Elections, located at 132 N. Royal St., suite 100 from Mon-



FILE PHOTO

day through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Applications to request a mail-in ballot must be received in the Office of Voter Registration & Elections by June 10 at 5 p.m. Voters can access applications by visiting vote.elections.virginia.gov, downloading the application available on the city's elections webpage or calling the Office of Voter Reg-

istration & Elections at 703-746-4050.

Ballot drop boxes will be available at polling places on June 21 from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Visit alexandria.gov/Elections for more information, including voter registration requirements, sample ballots, precinct maps and I.D. requirements.

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Old Town building goes for \$12 million

Douglas Development announced last week that it would be acquiring a building located at 515 King St., according to a news release.

The acquisition was purchased from Brookfield Properties and, at 70,000 square feet, totaled \$12 million. Cap-

ital improvements will include a lobby renovation, ground floor retail renovation, designated office suites and the upgrade of co-working spaces, according to the release. Additional plans include refreshing the public spaces and incorporating a gym and locker rooms.

According to the release, the closing date was on April 28. Douglas Development is in the process of negotiating with prospective tenants for the retail spaces with the possibility of opening a restaurant on the site.

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PHOTO/OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

Four ship hulls have been recovered in the City of Alexandria since 2015.

SHIP RESINKING FROM | 1

archaeologists scanned the timbers with 3D lasers and then documented that information so others can continue to study it in the future. The scan produced a digital model and a 1:12 scale physical model of one of the ships. The model is currently on display at the Torpedo Factory.

According to Breen, the discovery of the ships provides a glimpse into how Alexandrians made new land during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, a period from which there is little surviving documentation. Alexandria was a merchant city during this time, so she hypothesized it's likely the recovered hulls served as merchant ships.

"They sort of tell us about Alexandria's maritime heritage during the period after the Revolutionary War, primarily," Breen said.

City archaeologists previously found several ships in the 1980s, Breen noted, but the impacts were more severe so they were not recovered.

"This is really the first time we've seen such a fleet of archaeological ships that

we can study and learn more about Alexandria's heritage [from]," Breen said.

Starting on Monday, city staff started re-sinking three of the hulls in Ben Brenman Park Pond to ensure their stability for possible future study. Breen said the hulls were found in a waterlogged, anaerobic environment, which is why the 250-year-old wood was so well preserved.

This is rare, she said, and in order to keep it preserved the ship hulls must remain wet.

Jesse Maines, stormwater management division chief, pointed to Ben Brenman Park Pond's water-enhancing qualities and depth as a principal reason as to why it was chosen to hold the hulls.

"Burying these in a park, you would have to make sure that they stay wet. So that scratched some of those early ideas of, 'Oh, could we put it in Simpson Park or one of the other parks in the city?'" Maines said. "We really had to find somewhere to keep them wet and keep them submerged in water, and this just came up as the best idea to do it."

Ben Brenman Park Pond

was built in the 1990s when the nearby Cameron Station was being developed. In 2010, staff started exploring ways to enhance the water quality and amenities at the pond, as well as to reduce pollution and stormwater runoff.

Some of these adjustments included the addition of a water filter and an aquatic bench, which consists of wetland plants around the edge of the pond.

"It filters stuff that comes into the pond and reduces the pollution and provides a better habitat for the critters that live there," Maines said.

Maines also said that a great deal of water goes through the pond, which drains over 300 acres. The pond is the city's "flagship" when it comes to best management practice and significantly reduces phosphorus every year, according to Maines.

Ben Brenman Park Pond consists of a pedestrian bridge and forebay, which is the initial part of the pond where most of the water comes in that traps trash and sediment. Water then travels through

SEE SHIP RESINKING | 7

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PHOTO/OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

Archeologists document a ship timber with 3D laser scanning.



PHOTO/OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

The process of re-sinking three of the four ship hulls in Ben Brenman Park Pond started this month.

SHIP RESINKING FROM | 6

what Maines calls several “cells,” the second of which – and last before the water empties from the pond into Holmes Run – will hold the ship hulls.

Maines specified that submerging the timbers in water prevents air from getting to

the wood and subsequently rotting it.

“When the air gets to the wood, the microbes breathe the air and they eat the wood as a fuel source, like food,” Maines said. “So, when you submerge it in the water they don’t have that air as a source to respire, so they’re not there

to eat the wood and rot it.”

Amanda Dolasinski, communications specialist with the department of infrastructure and environmental quality, highlighted the importance of placing the timbers in a public space where residents can learn about the city’s history.

“By moving the timbers to Ben Brenman Pond, a public space, it’s giving the public an opportunity to connect and to be able to see this piece of history,” Dolasinski said.

Though the resinking began on Monday and will continue through May 27, the process kicked off with a

meeting on April 19 to inform community members and residents about the project. Staff explained that there will be activity where the timbers are currently stored.

According to Breen, city experts will first wrap the timbers in geotextile to keep them safe. They will then transport the timbers to the pond and use a forklift to place them in the water. Finally, several scuba divers will carefully swim the timbers to the bottom of the pond, where they will remain anchored.

Archaeologists will reassess after 20 to 25 years whether the artifacts should remain in the pond or if a different stabilization method, such as conservation, would be a better method for preservation.

“It’s really an innovative storage solution and we’re really looking forward to the process starting,” Breen said.

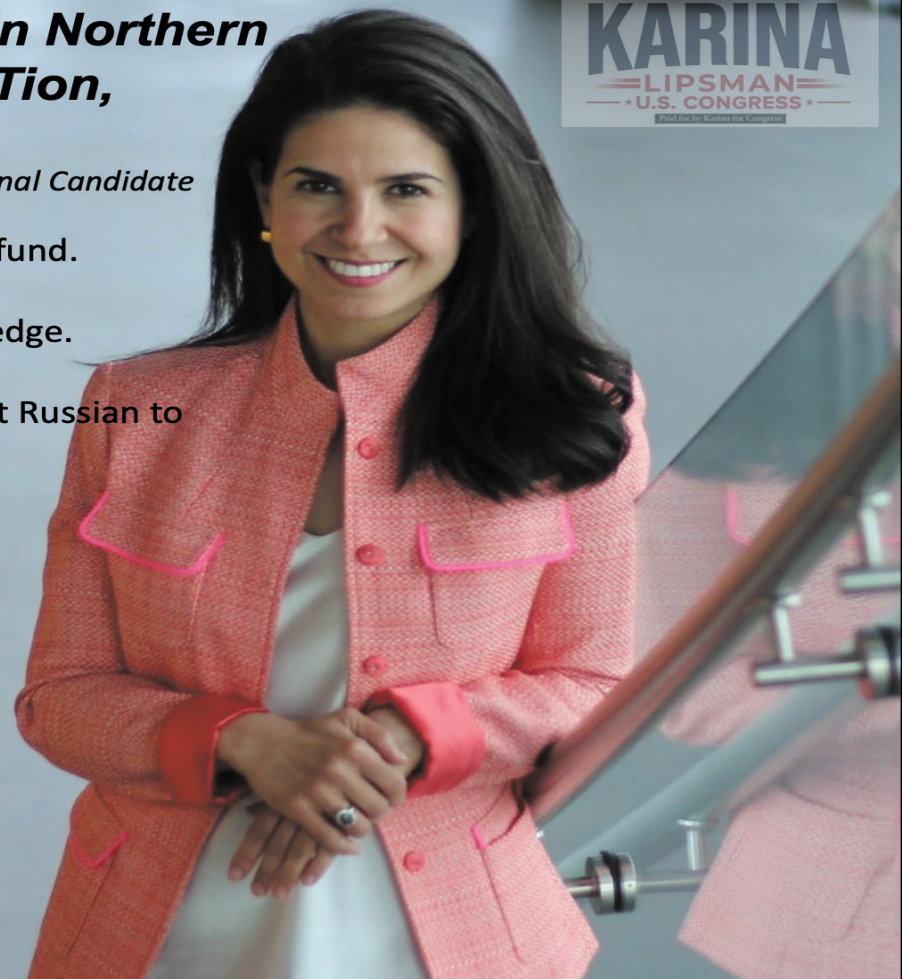
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COURTESY PHOTO

Lee Fifer (left) poses with Fran Becker (center) and Val Hawkins (right) at an annual Carpenter's Cook-Off event.

FIFER

FROM | 1

penter's Shelter, characterized Fifer as a "connection point" to the community.

"He was definitely someone that was not afraid to get involved and not afraid to get others involved," Steen said. "I knew that when Lee called, he was going to ask how the [Carpenter's] board was doing, and he was going to ask what he could be doing. Those were as regular as rain with our interactions."

According to Steen, Fifer originally joined Carpenter's as a member of the board of directors in 1998, where he served for a number of years. During this time, he became chair of the fundraising committee that raised money for a campaign that eventually allowed Carpenter's to move from a warehouse to the former DMV site on North Henry Street. Carpenter's was on the verge of closing, at the time, but Fifer's fundraising efforts led to garnering \$600,000 in six months, which went toward improving new facilities and continuing its services to the community.

Fifer was instrumental in creating an event called Carpenter's Cook-Off in 2001, which immediately became a hit and was an annual event up until the pandemic.

The event takes place at the Birchmere and features an afternoon of tastings from local restaurants, music and an auction all in support of Carpenter's mission to aid those experiencing and at risk of homelessness. The cook-off events have raised more than \$1 million to date.

Even after eventually leaving his position as chair of the board, Fifer continued to remain involved with the shelter, donating time and money and encouraging community members to do the same.

Charlotte Hall, managing director of Old Town Business Association and a friend

of Fifer's, highlighted Fifer's staunch commitment to the city's homeless population.

"Lee Fifer was a real gem who cared deeply about our homeless community," Hall said. "Not only did Lee want to give them shelter, but he wanted them to get [them] an education, help them get a job, find a home and live a sustainable life."

Fifer's passion for affordable housing seeped into other areas, too. He was a founder and former chair of Affordable Housing Opportunity Means Everyone, which promotes workforce housing development and affordable housing. He was treasurer of the George Mason Foundation and helped establish a master's program in real estate development at George Mason University.

A strong champion for education, which he called the key to self-sufficiency, Fifer played a major role in accumulating funds to provide educational scholarships for Carpenter's clients. In late 2019, the shelter's education fund was named after Fifer.

Fran Becker, former executive director of Carpenter's Shelter, worked closely with Fifer to make the shelter what it is today. Becker, who co-chaired the fundraising committee to renovate the shelter, praised Fifer's leadership, persistence in fundraising and commitment to transforming Carpenter's into a renowned nonprofit.

"Because of his leadership, [Carpenter's] morphed from being reactive, an emergency shelter, to being proactive, an award-winning nonprofit that ends homelessness through continuum of care programming," Becker said. "His strategic leadership in programming and board development charted [Carpenter's] onto its current successful course."

But it wasn't just the quality of Fifer's work that will live

on; it's also how he interacted with those he worked alongside. Val Hawkins, a former board member of Carpenter's, first met Fifer 60 years ago through his brother, who was fraternity brothers with Fifer at Brown University. Since then, the two worked on various projects, both work related and shelter related.

In Hawkins' view, Fifer's "tremendous sense of humor" lent itself to working through serious issues in a fun, relaxed way.


"He was a very special person. He had a unique talent that he could get people to work together to address issues, challenges, opportunities that we were facing, whether it be the homeless shelter or real estate, whatever," Hawkins said. "And he made people feel good about working with him. That's important."

Outside of his work with Carpenter's, Fifer loved animals – particularly basset hounds – as well as boating and playing music. According to Peter Lunt, for whom Fifer took over as board chair, Fifer was constantly inviting friends, family and colleagues on his boat to go fishing. Fifer was also a multi-instrumentalist.

"He was really kind of a renaissance man in many ways," Lunt said. "He was so bright and well read and he was a musician. He played the guitar and banjo and he was in several different groups. He just had a lot of fun doing it."

Born on Feb. 9, 1943, Fifer attended St. Stephen's School in Alexandria through graduation. He graduated from Brown University and Virginia Law School. He also earned a master's in business administration from George Washington University.

Fifer joined the law firm of Boothe, Prichard and Dudley, now called McGuireWoods, in



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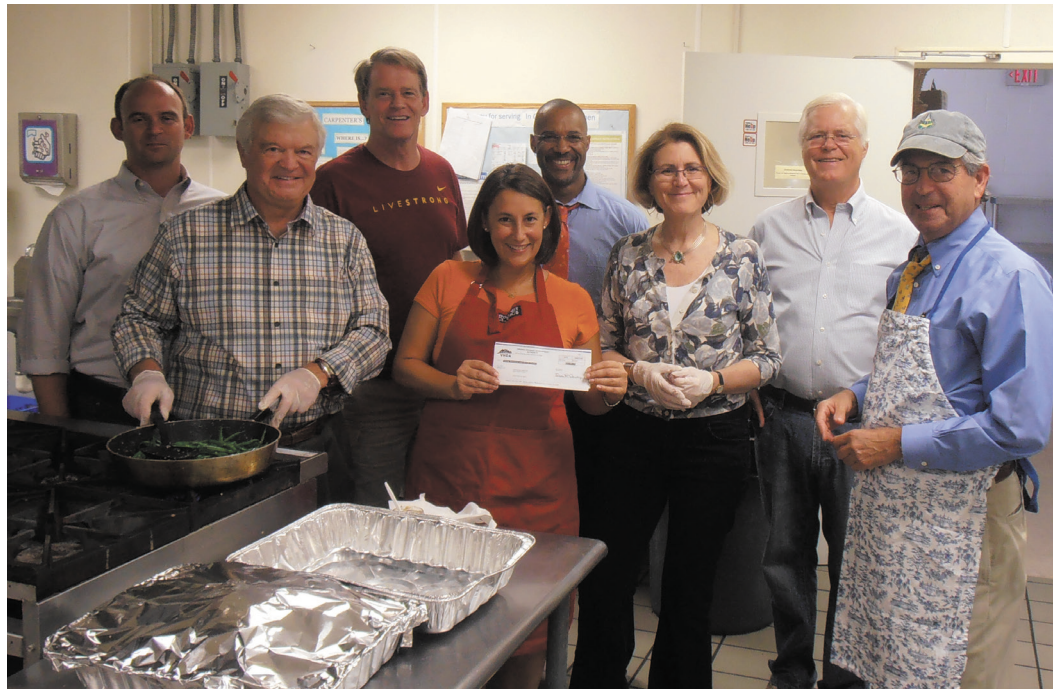
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1972, focusing on land use and environmental law, real estate law, affordable housing and sports law.

His contributions in Alexandria include serving as chair of the Chamber of Commerce, on the board of governors of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School and on the strategic planning committee of Christ Church.

In the 1980s, Fifer served on then Mayor Charles Beatley's Multimodal Task Force, which studied transportation issues. He also served on the board of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance, where he was general counsel for almost 20 years.

Fifer helped found the Alexandria Volunteer Bureau, now called Volunteer Alexandria, in the early 1980s, where he served as chair for five years and helped hire the organization's first executive director.



Fifer and the board of directors serve at a Carpenter's event in 2012.

COURTESY PHOTO

He was co-chair of the "Spring for Alexandria" Philanthropy Summit organized by Volunteer Alexandria in 2012.

In 2014, Fifer was named an Alexandria Living Legend

for his myriad contributions to the city.

"The impact of Lee Fifer on life in Alexandria should probably be measured in truckloads. His generosity

and service are almost overwhelming," reads his Living Legends induction article.

Steen said he'll fondly remember Fifer's desire to laugh and have a good time.

One of the last times he saw Fifer was when Fifer came out to visit Carpenter's and tour the facility. Steen had agreed to drive Fifer home, and on the way, they stopped to pick up a prescription.

"When he came back he got into the car, leaned over and handed me a cookie and said, 'Good guys deserve a cookie,'" Steen said with a laugh. "It was so random but charming all at the same time. It was just one where I thought, 'How endearing.'"

Fifer is survived by his wife Sarah Savage, son Carson Daniel Fifer and his fiancé London Thor, daughter Meredith Savage and her husband Alex Prieu and niece Ellen Cassidy.

A service was held on Tuesday at Christ Church to honor Fifer's life. Donations can be made to a favorite cause or charity to honor his memory.

-oanderson@alextimes.com



You are invited to our Virtual Community Meeting

Learn about the Glebe Electric Transmission Project scheduled to begin construction this summer in Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, Virginia.

Join us live on Wednesday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m.
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The Study chef brings new flavors to city

Tomas Chavarria adds modern flair to Mesoamerican food

BY CODY MELLO-KLEIN

Tomas Chavarria is bringing Alexandria a modern twist on the Mesoamerican flavors he grew up with in Costa Rica. Chavarria is the newly appointed executive chef for both King & Rye in The Alexandrian, located at 480 King St., and The Study, a recently reopened cocktail bar inside boutique hotel Morrison House.

According to Chavarria, he grew up watching his grandmother and mother working in the kitchen. At age 6, his grandmother, who he called “a superfreak with seafood,” taught him to make tortillas and filet a fish, and he hasn’t

stopped since.

“I remember turning to grandma [when I was 11] and saying, ‘Hey, I wanna be a chef.’ Coming from a family where all my brothers, sisters and mom, they are in the pharmaceutical industry, so it’s a 9 to 5 schedule and I wanted to be a chef,” Chavarria said. “My grandma was the one always supporting me to go into that career.”

His first professional restaurant experience came when he was 16 and he was working on the weekends with an Argentinian restaurant owner who was a family friend. Chavarria recalled learning the ins and outs of Argentinian barbeque, the difference between various kinds of meat and traditional grilling techniques.

“I’m always super familiarized with working in open wood spit fires, those ancestral techniques that come from Mesoamerica, like smoking and cooking everything on the charcoals,” Chavarria said.

His first job proved to his mother that a culinary career was a legitimate possibility, and after graduating from high school, he attended the culinary arts program at Universidad Politécnica Internacional in Costa Rica’s Heredia province. During the day, Chavarria sharpened his mind in class, while at night he sharpened his knife at the university’s French fine dining restaurant.

Chavarria went on to learn from Michelin Star chefs like Charlie Palmer while working in New York City.

“To be honest, they show you to be passionate about what you’re doing. When I was working in New York, I was doing 16 to 18 hour shifts



PHOTO/SCOTT SUCHMAN

Tomas Chavarria is the new executive chef at King & Rye and The Study at Morrison House.

a day, sleeping three to four hours, but I think, as a chef, we’re freaks with perfection,” Chavarria said.

At age 25, Chavarria became the youngest executive chef in Costa Rica while working at two hotels. He went on to work for Marriott International, overseeing restaurant openings and operations

for hotels in Cancun, Mexico City, Havana and Dubai.

Most recently, Chavarria served three years as head chef for a restaurant at the Crimson Resort and Spa Boracay in the Philippines, a huge dream for an Asian food lover like Chavarria. In that time,

SEE **CHAVARRIA**

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Spring2Action

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Presented by ACT for Alexandria

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PHOTO/MORRISON HOUSE

For The Study's new menu, Tomas Chavarria is drawing upon his childhood in Costa Rica.

CHAVARRIA FROM | 12

his restaurant earned accolades as one of the 20 best restaurants in the Philippines and one of the 50 best in all of Asia.

Now, Chavarria has come to Alexandria, although in many ways he is returning home. He is bringing some

Latin American flavors to King & Rye, but his work at The Study finds him calling upon the skills he learned as a 16-year-old in Costa Rica.

According to Chavarria, Mesoamerican food is “the food of trade” and comes primarily from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador and Panama. During the 16th

century, the Mesoamerican region became the fastest and easiest region for traders to send Asian, European and Middle Eastern goods to North and South America.

“One of the cool things that I always tell to people is food, besides being the language of love or charity, is also the language of trading, of tradition, of history,” Chavarria said.

Even though the ingredients are deceptively simple, the flavor profile of Mesoamerican food is “a boiler room of all these traditions, all of this culture and all of this rehearsal of techniques behind it,” Chavarria said.

“That’s one of the basic points behind The Study, bringing that cultural mix between all of these cultures

to modern American cuisine because at the end of the day modern American cuisine is playing with your ingredients, playing with your technique but showcasing [the product],”

Chavarria said.

The Study, located at 116 S. Alfred St., is itself a melting pot of culinary traditions, techniques and memories for Chavarria, who said the menu is made up of recipes from his grandmother and dishes that he grew up eating almost every day, like steak and onions.

“I remember my grandpa having a piece of steak, throwing it in a cast iron pan, throwing some onions on top and cooking it and serving it to us,” Chavarria said. “That was his favorite meal. He was eating it five, six times a week, and it really was the most honest piece of meat with just onions and butter. I always wanted to think, ‘How can I elevate this into fine dining cuisine?’”

At The Study, Chavarria has answered that question with a 60-day dry aged cut of steak sourced from Seven Hills in Lynchburg, Virginia, served with an onion puree, onion ashes and lizano jus, the Costa

Rican equivalent of Worcestershire sauce that comes with a kick. The menu also features his grandmother’s tres leches and corn cake recipes.

One of Chavarria’s favorite dishes at The Study is the Caribbean rundown stew, a creamy mix of octopus, clams, Atlantic cod, red snapper, potatoes and fresh coconut milk.

The saying goes that “you can’t go home again,” as memory, reality and the gradual change that comes with time will always collide to make a true homecoming impossible. For Chavarria, it seems the saying is integral to his approach at The Study, where he takes childhood inspirations and spins them into new tales.

“For me, it’s always about the storytelling. I think every chef needs to be telling a story behind their plates,” Chavarria said.

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COVID-19 UPDATES

FILE PHOTO

COVID-19 surges again in Alexandria

Average daily cases near February numbers

BY DENISE DUNBAR

Cases of COVID-19 are spiking again in Alexandria,

reaching a seven-day moving average of 70 new cases per day as of Tuesday. By comparison, one month ago, on April 3, the seven-day moving average was 53.6, and on

March 3, it was 20.4, according to the Virginia Department of Health.

The last time cases of COVID-19 were this high in the city was Feb. 7, when the seven-day moving average was 76.6. This came on the tail end of the extreme surge in late December 2021 and early January 2022 when the Omicron variant raced through the city and surged around the world.

In the past 13 weeks, dating back to early February, there has been a significant uptick in the number of cases in younger children in Alexandria. While children ages 9 and under accounted for a small percentage of cases early in the pandemic, that is no longer the case. In the last 13 weeks, there have been 429 cases of COVID-19 among children 9 and under, one of four age groups with at least 400 cases during the past three months – the oth-

ers being age 20 to 29 with 433 cases, age 40 to 49 with 503 cases and age 30 to 39 with 705 cases.

White residents contracted COVID-19 more than four times as frequently as Black residents during the past 13 weeks and almost five times as frequently as Latino residents. There were 1,513 COVID-19 cases among white residents, compared to 372 cases among Black residents and 311 among Latino residents, according to the Virginia Department of Health.

But Black residents had worse outcomes from COVID-19 during the past 13 weeks than either white or Latino residents. Despite having vastly fewer cases than white residents and slightly more than Latino residents, Black residents were hospitalized and died from COVID-19 at higher rates than either group during the last 13 weeks. Eight Black residents, seven white

residents and two Latino residents were hospitalized from COVID-19, while three Black, one white and no Latino residents died from the virus in that timeframe.

There has also been a significant, yet conflicting, gender disparity both during the last 13 weeks and from the start of the pandemic. Women have contracted COVID-19 in higher numbers than men both in Alexandria and throughout Virginia, yet men have had more severe outcomes both locally and statewide.

During the past 13 weeks, 1,624 women and 1,328 men were diagnosed with COVID-19 in Alexandria, roughly the same percentages as throughout the pandemic. Yet of the 188 total city deaths from COVID-19 since March 2020, 105 have been men and 83 women. In the past 13 weeks, two men and two women died from COVID-19.

-ddunbar@alextimes.com



refuge

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Alexandria Choral Society closes out its 2021-22 season with *Refuge*, a social-justice themed program featuring a world-premiere performance of Jonathan Kolm's crowd-sourced commission of the same name, portraying an individual's journey out of conflict and exile towards safety and refuge.

For the safety of our singers and audience, masks and proof of full COVID-19 vaccination will be required at this performance.

Tickets now available at www.alexandriachoralsociety.org/refuge. Our suggested price for each seat is \$30 (all seats are General Admission), but we invite you to pay the amount that is affordable for you - whether that be more or less. When our patrons pay whatever they can, it allows us to bring our music to more people, while remaining financially healthy.

Times Living

PETS



FILEPHOTO

The Dog Aging Project is a national study with the goal of understanding how genes, lifestyle and environment influence aging.

Studying dogs' lifespans

Dog Aging Project looks to extend "healthspan" for pups

BY KIM GILLIAM

The American Kennel Club recently posted a call for more dogs to participate in a project that aims to help improve dogs' lifespans. This piqued

my interest as many dogs that I work with are entering their golden years and their owners would do anything to contribute to a long and happy life for their pups as well as future generations.

The Dog Aging Project is a national study with the goal of understanding how genes,

lifestyle and environment influence aging. Funded in 2018 by the National Institute on Aging, part of the National Institutes of Health, it brings together academics from 28 universities around the world with a community of dogs, owners, veterinarians, researchers and volunteers.

The project's work is centered on two goals: understanding how biology, lifestyle and environment influence aging and intervening to increase healthspan – that golden period of well-being when dogs can leap, dive, fetch and snuggle free from pain or disability.

As of mid-March, there were 35,000 volunteers reporting regularly on their dogs' health, lifestyle and

care, but more dogs are needed. They are particularly looking for intact dogs, large dogs and dogs that live in central and southern United States.

"All dogs are welcome: Any size, any breed, any age, and any health condition. However, we can learn the most from dogs enrolled as puppies, ideally before they

SEE **PETS**


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PETS



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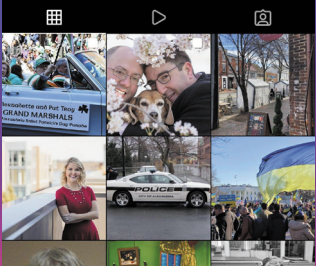


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PETS

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are spayed or neutered,” Dr. Audrey Ruple DVM, MS, PhD, an associate professor at Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech, said.

No one has ever investigated such a large number of dogs over such a long period of time, especially at the level of detail these researchers envision. One branch of the study is sequencing the genomes of at least 10,000 dogs. Another zeros in on the oldest dogs in the pack – the “supercentenarians” – to look for keys to their longevity.

It’s long been clear that big dogs have shorter lifespans than small dogs and that different breeds are predisposed to different ailments. The hope is the Dog Aging Project will help reveal more about the mechanisms behind those links. The researchers also hope to gain insights into normal aging,

along with the entire spectrum of ailments that plague older dogs, from arthritis and hearing loss to cataracts and cognitive decline.

You can nominate your dog by going to DogAging-Project.org to complete a brief questionnaire. Within two to eight weeks they will send an invitation to set up your personal portal on their secure research platform where you will be able to complete the Health and Life Experience Survey, which is in-depth and covers many topics, including demographics, environment, behavior, diet and medicines. The survey is lengthy, but you can take your time and complete it in sections, as long as it is submitted within six weeks. Participants are also asked to upload their dogs’ veterinary records.

Upon completion of the survey, your dog will become an official member of the Dog Aging Project Pack. Participating in the project lets you

connect with other dog lovers around the country via an area on their website called the Dog Park where members can interact with one another and share about their dogs.

As the years pass, they will ask you to provide updates and share opportunities to participate in other aspects of the research with a goal of maintaining a relationship with pack members for the entirety of the dog’s life. And when it’s time, the End of Life Survey collects information about the circumstances surrounding a dog’s death. By combining that data with the information from the earlier surveys, it will help inform understanding of the aging process and identify key targets to improve the quality and length of life for future generations of dogs.

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



FILE PHOTO

The Dog Aging Project works to increase healthspan, the golden period of well-being when dogs can leap, dive, fetch and snuggle free from pain or disability.



PHOTO/HOPE BACHMAN

Left to right: Stuart Conrad as Seymour Krelborn, and Isa Valenzuela and Eliza Costle-Tyler as the people-eating plant Audrey II in Alexandria City High School's "Little Shop of Horrors."

Cappies review of ACHS' 'Little Shop of Horrors'

BY ZANDER KUEBLER

Do you have a garden? Maybe some house plants? As far as you can tell they aren't seeking world domination, right? Well, after Alexandria City High School's unnerving production of "Little Shop of Horrors," it can't hurt to give them a second glance.

"Little Shop of Horrors," a dark comedy musical by Alan Menken, began as a little-known 1960 horror film directed by Roger Corman. Menken's '60s style musical rendition of the unsettling tale debuted off-Broadway in 1982 and on Broadway in 2003, while a feature film of the musical version debuted in 1986. The story follows a quirky botanist in his disturbing quest for recognition, money and love, all via a unique plant he discovered – that happens to eat only human flesh.

The story is piloted by the discoverer of this peculiar plant, Seymour Krelborn, a sweet but lonely orphan who is undervalued by his caretaker and employer, Mr.

Mushnik. ACHS' Stuart Conrad navigated Seymour's transition from a shy nobody to a determined fame-seeker by modulating his jitters, adjusting his posture and even developing a glare as the show progressed.

This clearly illustrated character arc joined nicely with Erin Burns' confident portrayal of Audrey to form a will-they, won't-they relationship that was both comedic and heartfelt. In their first and only romantic duet together, "Suddenly Seymour," Conrad and Burns delivered chills with their darling facial expressions and goosebump-inducing, harmonic climax.

However, even with outstanding commitment to character from both leading actors, the concept of the show might've still felt overly unrealistic if not for the design and on-stage execution of the dastardly plant itself by KD Bectel, Tanween Syed, Lyra Jaffe, Kate Schneider and others. The plant grew in four different stages, beginning with a small potted plant that appeared to move on its

own, and ending with a larger-than-life, functioning plant head that successfully "ate" multiple characters while on stage.

To top it all off, the plant developed a voice as it grew larger, and Isa Valenzuela embodied the awkward role by adding an eerie yet powerful vibrato to the already fear-inducing plant, particularly in the songs "Feed Me" and "Supper time."

Surrounding the monstrous plant were similarly detailed, yet effective, technical elements. ACHS' set team of Ella Bruinooge, Saul Cizek and others made use of barn-like doors to create walls that opened into a dentist's office and radio studio. The set team also set up efficient transitions by designing the central set piece to rotate, allowing it to act as both the inside and outside of the flower shop.

In terms of lighting, during moments of intense emotion, Seymour and Audrey were often placed in a spotlight. It is typical to expect some herky-jerky movement to come from lighting choices

like this, but Maya Huddle and Yahney-Marie Sangare were able to illuminate the characters clearly and effectively.

Finally, many high school productions are plagued by slow transitions that take the audience out of the show environment. Not only did ACHS' stage crew work fast, but they maintained the elite attention to detail that was apparent in the other technical choices. For example, as the flower shop grew more profitable, it had new flowers for sale. A small detail, but one that helped keep the audience engaged despite the implausibility of the overarching storyline.

Alexandria City High School's "Little Shop of Horrors" produced a brilliant mix of laughter and fear, leaving everyone wanting to "Seymour."

The writer is a student at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

This review of Alexandria City High School's "Little Shop of Horrors" is part of the "Cappies" program where students from one school review plays performed at other schools, culminating in a black-tie awards program at the Kennedy Center.

The reviewer attended the April 23 performance.

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Rethinking lawn care

Use clover for a lush, green, eco-friendly yard

BY FAMILY FEATURES

Who has time to continuously care for that carpet-like, green grass almost everyone longs for? Nearly no one. Cultivating a lush, green lawn takes time, can be expensive and is a mainstay on weekend to-do lists spring through fall. Now, that's a serious commitment.

Traditional turf lawns require a lot of maintenance. You must mow and remove weeds often, plus the amount of water usage can be staggering. The average American family uses 320 gallons of water per day, about 30% devoted to outdoor uses, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. More than half of that is used for watering lawns and gardens.

Nationwide, landscape irrigation is estimated to account for almost one-third of all residential water use, totaling nearly 9 billion gallons per day.

It's about time to rethink the obsession with turf grass lawns and take a page from the past: Clover can help create a great-looking lawn. Several decades ago, clover was considered so essential for lawns that it was a standard component in lawn seed mixes and wasn't considered a weed. Clover was branded a weed when agricultural chemical companies created herbicides to rid lawns of broadleaf plants. The herbicides had no effect on grass but killed everything else, clovers included, which is how clover became identified as a weed.

It's not too late to renovate your lawn and reintroduce the



PHOTO/OUTSIDE PRIDE

Clover is a cost-effective and eco-friendly alternative to a traditional grass lawn.

springy, soft, green carpet of clover back into your lawn. It's fluffy on the feet, aids in both weed and erosion control and, when used to overseed existing lawns, fills in bare spots fast.

Today, as interest grows in more natural, eco-friendly ways to care for grass, you might consider totally replacing your lawn with an option like miniclover, which should not be confused with invasive

white Dutch clover.

"Miniclover is about one-third to half the size of white Dutch clover, producing a thick, carpet-like appearance

SEE **CLOVER**

| 21

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HOMES

CLOVER FROM | 20

that blends well with turf,” Troy Hake, president and owner of Outsidepride.com, a gardening and lawncare company, said. “It’s especially attractive, cost effective, eco-friendly and can help you get that thick, lush, green lawn your neighbors will envy.”

In addition to providing weed and erosion control, the fluffy lawn alternative offers a variety of benefits:

Nitrogen fixer

Miniclover takes nitrogen from the air and “fixes” it in your soil, eliminating the need to apply nitrogen plant food because it does the work for you, keeping lawns green and growing while adding natural nitrogen to the soil.

Drought tolerant

Miniclover has longer, deeper roots than turf grass, reaching down into the soil

for the moisture they need, so you won’t need to water as much during normal weather conditions. Plus, it stays green year-round, is resistant to drought and tolerates wet conditions.

Controls weeds

Its dense structure and growth habits help suppress existing weeds and the establishment of new weeds, as it grows via stolons, stems that grow horizontally along the ground.

Low to no maintenance

You can mow miniclover – the more it’s cut, the smaller the leaf size – or simply let it grow, as it only grows four to six inches tall and doesn’t get unwieldy, making it an ideal lawn alternative or healthy addition to your lawn.

Thrives in sun to partial shade

Unlike some turfgrass



FILE PHOTO

Clover aids in both weed and erosion control and, when used to overseed existing lawns, quickly fills in bare spots.

types, miniclover does well in partial shade that receives at least some direct sunshine daily.

Stands up to foot traffic

It has superior wear tolerance over turf grass, does

well in compacted soil and fills bare spots quickly.

Makes great groundcover

Grow it alone or, because of its adaptability and ability to grow in a wide variety

of conditions, combine it with other groundcover plants, like creeping phlox, ivy and thyme.

It’s time to rethink typical lawn turf and try an eco-friendly alternative to replace or renovate your lawn.

HOME OF THE WEEK

Bright and sunny end Old Town residence



Left: Street level view of the front.

Middle: Spacious living room and dining room.

Right: Sun-filled contemporary kitchen.



PHOTO/BART CHAMBERLIN

This beautifully maintained three bedroom plus three-and-a-half bath brick end townhome features a den/home office with a full wall of custom bookshelves, lovely detailed moldings, sparkling hardwood floors

throughout, gas fireplace plus loads of charm. A sunny eat-in kitchen opens onto a wonderful deck with retractable awning. Easy parking in the two-car garage, plus ample street parking.

Located in Alexandria’s

designated Arts District and within four blocks of two live performing stage theaters, Muse and Metro. And only a 20-minute walk to Braddock Metro and Potomac Yards Metro.

This terrific home is per-

fect for joggers and bikers to enjoy the 18-mile bike path which stretches along the Potomac River from Mount Vernon to Roosevelt Island.

This home is an absolute gem!

AT A GLANCE

Address:

1208 North Pitt St.,
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Neighborhood: Old Town

Price: \$1,125,000

Square feet: 1,944

Bedrooms: 3

Bathrooms: 3.5

Year built: 1996

Contact:

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Our View

Something old and something new

Two stories in this week's Times illustrate the intersection of Alexandria's past with its present and remind us why this city of ours remains endlessly fascinating.

In "Return to the depths" on page 1, reporter Olivia Anderson explains that Alexandria isn't just a port city dating to colonial days – it's a locale where ships from that era are being re-sunk some 200 years later several miles from the Potomac's shoreline.

Meanwhile, on page 12, editor Cody Mello-Klein tells the story of present-day culinary innovator Tomas Chavarria in "The Study chef brings new flavors to city." Chef Tomas Chavarria is providing new twists on his Costa Rican heritage at two prominent local eateries.

These four ships that were discovered in recent years during redevelopment of Alexandria's waterfront provide a window into commerce and travel from long ago and into how our city was built along the Potomac: After their usefulness as ocean and river transport for goods and travel came to an end, the massive hulls were used as landfill to expand Alexandria's boundaries out into the river.

City archaeologists worked with developers of The Hotel Indigo and of Robinson Landing to protect the hulls when they were found – which delayed both projects by months. The hulls were carefully extracted, studied by archaeology teams from Texas A&M University and others, wrapped and preserved.

The unearthing of these ship's skeletons right in our midst was the urban equivalent of finding T-Rex bones buried on the back 40 of a ranch in Wyoming.

A historic archaeological find met modern technological innovation with the decision to preserve these hulls within Alexandria by wrapping then re-sinking them, not along the waterfront, but in the large pond in Ben Brenman Park in the city's West End. This project has been an exercise in creative, outside-the-box – and river – thinking from start to finish.

Alexandria's history – the good, the bad and everything in between – draws thousands of visitors each year to tour, attend events and sometimes relocate to our city. Culinary innovators like Chavarria keep our city interesting for residents and visitors alike by offering new twists on offerings within long-time establishments, like boutique hotel Morrison House and The Alexandrian in the heart of Old Town.

Chavarria's journey took him from Costa Rica to the Philippines and New York City, earning accolades along the way, before he landed in Alexandria to open new offerings in King & Rye in The Alexandrian and The Study in Morrison House.

Chavarria's emphasis on using flavors from Mesoamerica, a mixture of influences that stem from being a destination for trade into the Americas from Asia, Europe and the Middle East dating to the 1500s, is fitting in our city where more than 100 nationalities live.

So, if you check out the ships being re-sunk in Brenman Park and maybe grab a bite at one of Chavarria's eateries, think about the ways that trade and commerce have impacted Alexandria's history and continue to inform our present in exciting, new ways.

Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson

Photo of the Week



PHOTO/LEE MOODY

Clouds in the sky and reflecting off a building in Old Town North on a beautiful spring day.

Your Views

Markham column foreshadows speech suppression

To the editor:

How eerily timely was the insightful column last week by Rev. Ian Markham, dean of Virginia Theological Seminary, titled "Conspiracy theories abound?" At the very moment in which he so wisely reminds us that the classic liberal answer to dangerous popular theories is freedom of speech, the United States government announces the creation of a "Disinformation Board" to combat whatever it deems to be erroneous speech.

If we could staff the board with angels who know the truth, the concept might work, but as our founders so painfully understood, we simply cannot divine such angels, should they even exist among us. So, Markham advises, we must "permit a culture where the public square is full of many voices all seeking the truth. In an environment where news is not controlled by government, then truth will come out."

Indeed, history – including our own – is full of examples of government speech, usually well-intentioned, which are ulti-

mately proven to be flatout wrong and even dangerous: Germans and Japanese must be incarcerated during World War II; "three generations of 'imbeciles'" merit sterilization; races can be separated by law yet equal.

What "wrong" ideas that such a board in its then-constituted form might ban as disinformation will become the truth or merely sanctioned information by a succeeding board of a different political party? Indeed, those who refuse to learn from history, so often repeat its mistakes. Our very first Bill of Rights enjoins the government from abridging freedom of speech because "Here we are not afraid to tolerate any error, so reason is left free to combat it."

Every true liberal must see the Disinformation Board for the dangerous and unconstitutional evil it can quickly become, howsoever well-intentioned some of its supporters might be.

-Lenny Marsico,
Alexandria

Fairly compensate our disabled veterans

To the editor:

Our disabled veterans are grossly undercompensated and have been for generations. This is most especially true for our totally and permanently disabled veterans. Our disabled veterans have been asking Congress for fair and adequate compensation since the end of World War I, in 1918. That was 104 years ago!

In 2022, a totally disabled veteran with no dependents is compensated at the ridiculous rate of \$39,984.72 dollars annually. The National Average Wage Index for 2020 was \$55,628.60 dollars per annum, and the median income for 2020 was \$67,521.00. The per capita GDP in 2020 was \$63,416.00 dollars, among the highest in the world. This discrepancy is insane.

There is a far better chance that Bigfoot will be elected governor than there is a chance that our disabled veterans will be fairly compensated anytime soon. They realize that they are being manipulated and given short shrift by the wealthy and politically connected top 5% of the wealth pyramid in order to keep their compensation low and ensure a low tax rate for the elites. The elites use the national debt as a constant scare tactic to garner support from the working class and poor.

We can levy at least a penny tax on every dollar traded on the stock market to pay off the national debt and/or finance proper compensation for our disabled

veterans. The investor class must pay back what they have stolen out of the people's coffers in the GOP-enforced 2017 tax relief scam.

The New York Stock Exchange alone traded about 1.46 billion shares a day in 2019. There are presently 13 separate stock exchanges operating in the USA.

This treatment of disabled veterans is now a grave national security situation.

Once American youth clearly grasp that if they enlist into the armed forces and subsequently receive serious illnesses or injuries which will require a disability retirement, they will receive these substandard levels of support, then at that point the armed forces will collapse. What clear-thinking young person would agree to a lifetime of near poverty as a "reward" for service-connected injuries? The entire scenario is insane. Would you allow a young person in your family to get involved in this craziness? Of course not.

Our congressional delegation should introduce legislation now to set compensation at least at the level of the NAWI for all types of totally and permanently disabled veterans. And they should also consider giving federal income tax exclusion to all types of totally and permanently disabled veterans for all income, regardless of source, up to \$125,000 per annum.

-Tom Barnes,
Alexandria

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.



About Alexandria
with Mark Eaton

Stormwater utility fee credit suggestions

BY MARK EATON

Alexandria's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services is consistently in the spotlight because part of its mission is to solve the city's persistent flooding and protect our streams, the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay from pollutants in stormwater runoff.

One of T&ES' laudable initiatives is the stormwater utility fee credit, which offers property owners reductions of up to 30% of the annual stormwater utility fee for implementing any of 10 stormwater mitigation measures on a credit menu. Examples include permeable pavement, conservation landscaping, a cistern, a rain garden, one or more rain barrels and adherence to a "no fertilizer" pledge.

The SWU credit was first offered to homeowners in 2019. In the Dec. 1, 2021 to Feb. 15, 2022 application period, only 65 homeowners applied for the credit. The city classifies 23,190 dwellings as single-family residences, of which 9,142 are detached houses. The homeowner participation rate – measured by either single family residences or detached houses – is well under 1%.

The disparity between the annual stormwater fee revenue and the aggregate yearly fee reductions shows that credit participation can be increased substantially without affecting T&ES' other priorities. The credit has generated about \$55,000 in fee reductions in calendar year 2022. City Council's Stormwater Utility 10-Year Plan projects FY2022 and FY2023 revenues from the stormwater fee of \$16.9 million and \$17.6 million, respectively.

The best intended property owner-oriented environmental program is of little value if its use is so limited. T&ES' expertise is engineering, but the credit is essentially a marketing activity: T&ES sells property owners a fee reduction and the satisfaction of protecting Alexandria's environment in return for stormwater management improvements on their properties.

Here, respectfully, are suggestions to make the SWU credit more effective:

Emulate more effective programs. The city regularly measures employee compensation and other programs against other communities. T&ES should also compare credit participation rates and reward levels to other jurisdictions. For example, Montgomery County offers home-

owners up to \$7,500 in its Rainscapes program.

Encourage more impactful measures. Of the 71 SWU credit applications in 2021 to 2022, 31 earned the credit for installing rain barrels and 36 earned it for taking the "no fertilizer" pledge. These practices are easy to install or agree to. All other mitigation strategies attracted six or fewer applicants. The credit menu and application should be revised to encourage applicants to make actual drainage improvements that reduce stormwater runoff such as a rain garden or a dry well.

Rethink the application period. The Dec. 1 to Feb. 15 application window exists to coordinate the credit with the stormwater utility fee, which is assessed on real estate tax bills in May and October. The application form requires, for some mitigation practices, growing season photographs that must be taken months before the application period begins on Dec. 1. T&ES should fix this

by accepting and processing applications for the entire calendar year with the condition that the credit would be applied to the fee assessed in May of the next year.

Make it a five-year credit. Residential and commercial property owners must apply for the SWU credit every year. T&ES should allow property owners who earn the credit to certify annually that measures installed are still present with a re-application and re-documentation requirement every five years. T&ES is rightfully concerned about protecting public funds, but the probability that a property owner motivated to install stormwater mitigation practices would remove them seems low. A five-year credit, subject to annual certification, would allow T&ES to promote the five-year value of the credit as an inducement.

The SWU credit is an admirable opportunity for property owners to actively protect Alexandria's environment. T&ES should consider ways to increase participation, which would improve the program's effectiveness.

The writer is a former lawyer, member of the Alexandria School Board from 1997 to 2006, and English teacher from 2007 to 2021 at T.C. Williams High School, now Alexandria City High School. He can be reached at aboutalexandria@gmail.com and subscriptions to his newsletter are available free at <https://aboutalexandria.substack.com>.



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Celebrating Historic Preservation Month in Alexandria

Historic Alexandria is pleased to highlight some of its most recent acquisitions this Historic Preservation Month. Early historic preservation in Alexandria is responsible for saving three buildings now operated by Historic Alexandria: Gadsby's Tavern Museum, The Lyceum and the Lloyd House.

This month, we focus on the return of the Prettyman Fire Hose Reel Carriage to the Friendship Firehouse Museum, the ponding of the 18th-century ship timbers in Ben Brenman Lake, the opening of Freedom House museum at 1315 Duke St., the former office of the largest domestic slave trading firm, and the restoration of the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House at 517 Prince St. Readers also have an opportunity to help the Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission increase the number of interior easements in Alexandria.

The return of the 1858 Prettyman Fire Hose Reel is the culmination of years of fundraising to restore the 2019 Top Virginia Museums Endangered Artifact. Thanks to the efforts led by the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, this made-in-Alexandria piece of



PHOTO/JEFF HANCOCK PHOTOGRAPHY

The returned 1858 Prettyman Fire Hose Reel Carriage.

firefighting history returned to Alexandria in its original multi-colored appearance on Saturday. The carriage will be available for residents of Alexandria to view for free on May 14 at the Friendship Fire House Museum at 107. S. Alfred St.

With one restoration project recently completed, another continues at the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House at 517 Prince St. The city purchased the building in 2017 and just finished restoring its roof. The house is currently undergoing a restoration of its siding. This month, visitors will have the opportunity to talk to an expert on the house on Saturdays at 10 a.m.

A central aspect in preserving the Mur-

ray-Dick-Fawcett House while it was under private ownership was the maintenance of its architectural elements, both inside and outside of the building, using preservation easements. While many homeowners are intimidated by the idea of an interior easement on their house, they perhaps are unaware that easements can be put on individual elements of an interior, while still allowing for standard renovations of the kitchen, bathrooms and other areas. The Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission is accepting new nominations for easements, especially on interior architectural elements. Readers can nominate an element for an easement

by contacting the commission at 703-746-4554.

On May 15, Alexandria Archaeology offers a family-friendly public event explaining the process of conserving the ship timbers by submerging them in water. Alexandria Archaeology Museum also gives the public the chance to view three-dimensional models of three of the historic vessels from the Robinson Landing Site in the new SeeWorthy exhibit and find out how archaeologists use digital and physical models to compare ship construction.

Alexandria's intentional effort at historic preservation long predates the formal declaration of National Preservation Month. We hope you take advantage of the opportunities available this month. Whether seeing the restored hose reel carriage, attending a talk at the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House, applying for a preservation easement or learning more about the ship timbers being ponded, you have an opportunity to join Alexandria's decades-long preservation of its history.

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

Weekly Poll

Last Week

Do you agree with the proposal to fund body cameras for police officers in Alexandria?

58% No, the \$2.2 million would be better spent on other priorities.

35% Yes, it will offer protection to both police officers and the public.

4% Yes, but I'm not sure it will make much difference.

2% I'm not sure.

This Week

Take the poll at alextimes.com

What do you think of the city re-sinking the historic ships that were recently found along Alexandria's waterfront in Ben Brenman Pond?

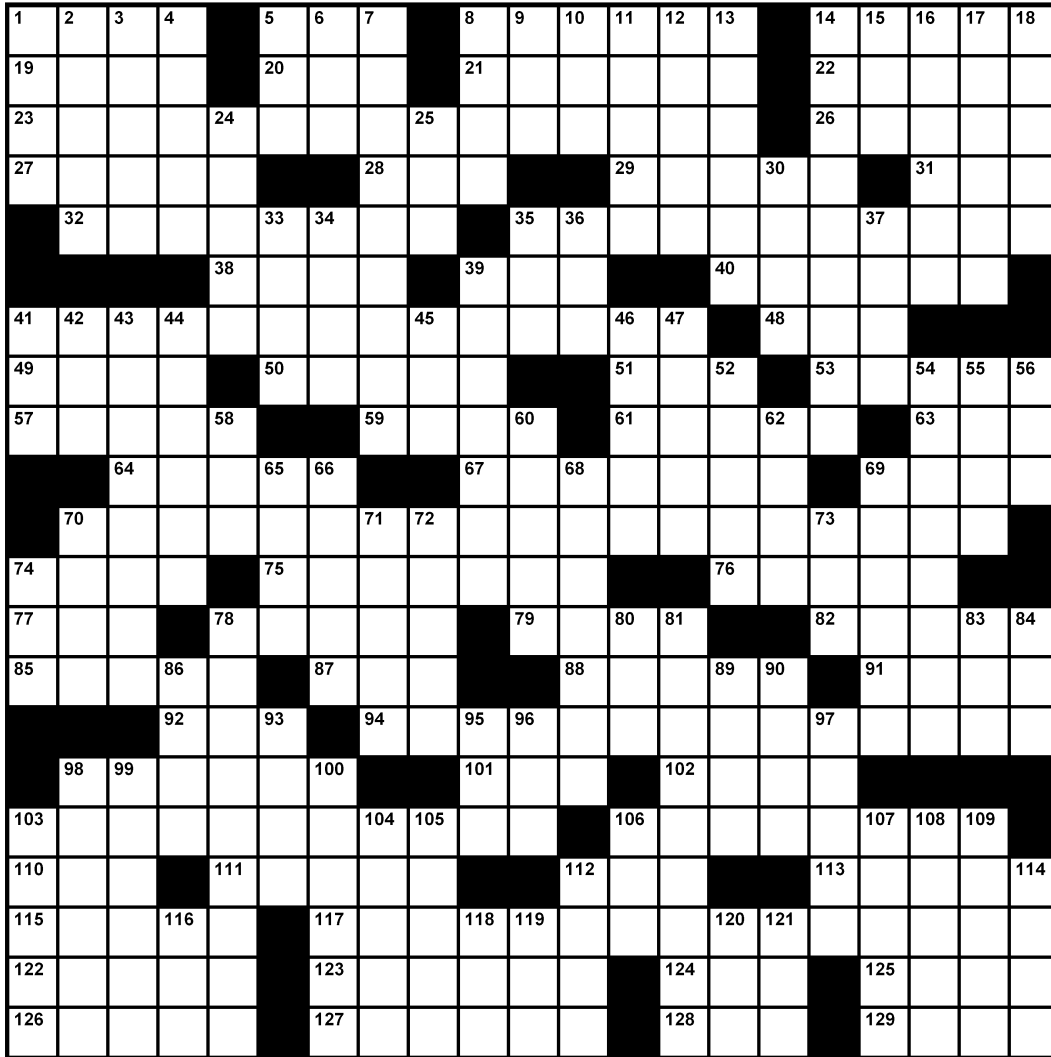
A) I love the preservation and innovation.

B) It's a waste of tax dollars.

C) I wasn't aware of it.

D) Historic preservation doesn't interest me.

Weekly Words



UNREAL! by Tracy Gray and Tom Pepper, edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS

- 1 Of the mouth
- 5 Caribou's kin
- 8 At the ready
- 14 Sickly white
- 19 Mani's mate
- 20 "I'll be!"
- 21 Heath bar base
- 22 Concave navel
- 23 Reality show "remake" about aspiring actors who won't settle for bit parts?
- 26 Add sequins to, say
- 27 Black Friday events
- 28 In favor of
- 29 Follow, as a tip
- 31 Cheerios grain
- 32 They rarely pass to teammates
- 35 ... about a single guy whose dates aren't private?
- 38 Prefix for "nautical"
- 39 Make a typo, say
- 40 Chophouse cut
- 41 ... about contestants navigating a gigantic corn maze?
- 48 Forty winks
- 49 Zombie's sound
- 50 Photo finish?
- 51 Tree with acorns
- 53 Rambunctious
- 57 Binary digits

- 59 One may wear black lipstick
- 61 Sombrero features
- 63 Shade
- 64 Dolphins' home
- 67 Lasagna cheese
- 69 Chick's chirp
- 70 ... about choreographic pairs dressed like Romanov rulers?
- 74 Muppet with a unibrow
- 75 Fall sign
- 76 English county
- 77 Tats
- 78 Cheese that may be smoked
- 79 Boxing bout enders, briefly
- 82 ___ fright
- 85 How ocean liners travel
- 87 Go bad
- 88 Words on Alice's cake
- 91 Congresswoman Ilhan
- 92 Umami enhancer, for short
- 94 ... about people investigating an Area 51 conspiracy theory?
- 98 Make no changes
- 101 Beatle's hairdo
- 102 "Frozen" queen
- 103 ... about meetups at a Hoboken sub shop?
- 106 Protected against competitors, in a way
- 110 Environmental prefix
- 111 "Till ___ do us part"
- 112 Kid-lit's Sam-___
- 113 Was broadcast

- 115 Jazz great who claimed to be from Saturn
- 117 ... about a superhero's crusade to teach ASL?
- 122 Test run
- 123 The Onion genre
- 124 Same old routine
- 125 Bring on board
- 126 Splinter groups
- 127 Punctual
- 128 Tempeh protein
- 129 Ticked (off)

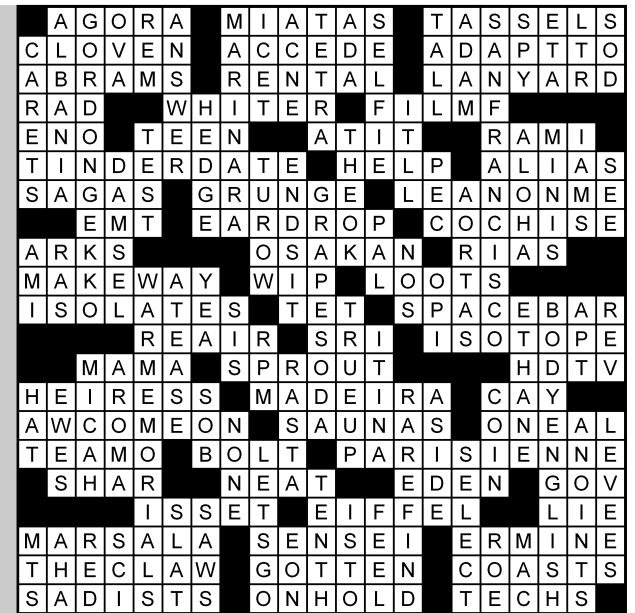
DOWN

- 1 Decides (to)
- 2 Building restoration, for short
- 3 Screenwriter ___ Rogers St. Johns
- 4 Written defamation
- 5 One might be poached
- 6 Triangle side
- 7 "Continue!"
- 8 Palindromic Italian number
- 9 Here-there link
- 10 Corp. \$\$\$ overseer
- 11 Insurer with a spokesduck
- 12 Freeloader
- 13 NBC anchor Holt
- 14 Establishments with benches and stools
- 15 Fish-chips link
- 16 "Peanuts" pooch
- 17 Angry tweetstorm

DEATH NOTICES

- GEORGE B. AYLOR** (79), formerly of Alexandria, April 26, 2022
- GEORGE K. BERNSTEIN** (88), of Alexandria, May 4, 2022
- MARGARET D. COX** (99), of Alexandria, April 12, 2022
- DOROTHY A. CROSS** (97), formerly of Alexandria, April 25, 2022
- ROBERT W. FARRAND** (88), of Alexandria, April 26, 2022
- MARK A. FITZGERALD** (51), formerly of Alexandria, April 22, 2022
- MARY B. GALLAGHER** (95), formerly of Alexandria, April 20, 2022
- CHERYL M. LLOYD** (74), formerly of Alexandria, April 24, 2022
- JEAN D. MORETTI** (94), formerly of Alexandria, April 25, 2022
- DANIEL F. O'KEEFE JR.** (85) of Alexandria, April 28, 2022
- STEPHEN D. QUATANNENS** (58), of Alexandria, April 23, 2022
- CHARLES L. SIMS JR.** (88), of Alexandria, April 25, 2022

Solutions from last week



- 18 Shtetl busybody
- 24 Quran's religion
- 25 Some ACT takers
- 30 Lena of "Chocolat"
- 33 Recover
- 34 Minestrone pasta, perhaps
- 35 It may be wireless
- 36 Sun's path, seemingly
- 37 Seized property, slangily
- 39 "Journey" you take by yourself
- 41 Celebrity news site
- 42 Clod-busting tool
- 43 Appropriates, as funds
- 44 Bless with oil
- 45 Grp. such as World Vision India
- 46 Roomba, e.g.
- 47 Mother ___ (our home)
- 52 High flyers
- 54 Lost person's question
- 55 Union fees
- 56 "Uh-huh!"
- 58 Cul-de-___
- 60 "Start playing," to a bandleader
- 62 The "M" of STEM
- 65 Paste in Japanese cuisine
- 66 Rack up
- 68 Get very emotional
- 69 Integral to
- 70 Turn down
- 71 "Waiting for ___" (Beckett play)
- 72 Intense anger
- 73 Venus, to Serena, informally
- 74 Crab shack wear
- 78 Accelerators
- 80 Rower's implement
- 81 They're seen hanging at some parties
- 83 ___ pal (female friend)
- 84 Before, to a bard
- 86 Accident responders (Abbr.)
- 89 Hot sandwich
- 90 Lessen, as pain
- 93 "Marvin ___" (2015 hit)
- 95 Angry music genre
- 96 Distress call letters
- 97 Island west of Maui
- 98 Clinch
- 99 Like a driving instructor getting ticketed
- 100 "For real?"
- 103 Kids around
- 104 Actor Hawke
- 105 "Country Again" singer Thomas
- 106 Neighbor of India (Abbr.)
- 107 Word before "squeeze" or "schedule"
- 108 74-Across' bestie
- 109 Big name in tractors
- 112 "Got it!"
- 114 Scott who sued for freedom
- 116 Snitch
- 118 Personal racer in "Mario Kart 8"
- 119 Humerus's limb
- 120 Wayne and Garth, for one
- 121 Pigs' digs

CALENDAR

OBITUARIES

MAY 5



CINCO DE MAYO AT BARKHAUS Join District Dogs, Chippin' and Barkhaus for a unique experience with your pups that includes Bingo night, prizes and tacos for both humans and dogs. Tickets are \$15 for the public and include a day pass/entry; Bingo cards; dog tacos; food/beverage discounts; a Cinco de Mayo themed photo backdrop; Chippin' treat samples and more.
Time: 6 to 8 p.m.
Location: 529 E. Howell Ave.
Information: <https://brewskisbarkhaus.com/calendar/cinco-de-mayo>

MAY 7



SPRING POP-UP MARKET FOR MOTHER'S DAY Just in time for Mother's Day, the Spring Pop-Up Market provides the chance to discover gifts made by local entrepreneurs and artisans.
Time: 1 to 5 p.m.
Location: Pat Miller Neighborhood Square, Mount Vernon and East Oxford avenues
Information: www.visitdelray.com

MAY 13



THE LATE SHIFT: ART & TECHNOLOGY Celebrate the growing tech, DIY and makerspace movement happening in Alexandria and beyond, with music, drinks and demonstrations. The event will feature makerspace and tech partners from across the DMV.
Time: 7 to 10 p.m.
Location: 105 N. Union St.
Information: www.visitalexandriava.com/event/the-late-shift%3a-art-%26-technology/16084/

MAY 14



OLD TOWN SPRINGTIME ART FESTIVAL The annual Alexandria Old Town Art Festival is heading back to John Carlyle Square. All the artwork is juried, providing a high level of quality, diversity and creativity of art on display. The show is rated as one of the top 100 art shows in Sunshine Artist Magazine.
Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Location: 300 John Carlyle St.
Information: www.visitalexandriava.com/event/2nd-annual-alexandria-old-town-springtime-art-festival/18725/

MAY 14



CARLYLE'S PERFECTLY PAIRED CHOCOLATE AND WINE TASTING Join Potomac Chocolate on the Magnolia Terrace for an evening of locally made chocolates paired with wine. There will also be small snacks that guests can enjoy between their wine and chocolate. Registration required.
Time: 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Location: 121 N. Fairfax St.
Information: www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park/events/carlyle%E2%80%99s-perfectly-paired-chocolate-wine-tasting

MAY 15



SPRING WINE FESTIVAL & SUNSET TOUR Stop by the Mount Vernon Spring Wine Festival and taste unlimited samples of wines from Virginia's finest wineries. Visitors can relax on the east lawn overlooking the Potomac River while experiencing the estate after hours. Bottles of wine will be available for purchase.
Time: 6 to 9 p.m.

Location: 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway
Information: www.visitalexandriava.com/event/spring-wine-festival-%26-sunset-tour/1873/

SEEWORTHY IN THE PARK In 2018, archaeologists uncovered the remains of three ship hulls at the Robinson Landing construction site and stored the timbers in tanks of water to prevent wood decay. They are in the process of being moved to Ben Brenman Pond for preservation. This event will include opportunities to talk with archaeologists about ship research and preservation, as well as STEM-based activities for all ages. Learn how wooden ships were reused in the 18th and 19th centuries as landfill with Shoreline Engineering and discover the physics behind moving large ship timbers with Mini Forklift Hydraulics.
Time: Noon to 4 p.m.
Location: 4800 Ben Brenman Park Drive
Information: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Archaeology>

June Helen Hamaty Jones

June 17, 1924 – April 24, 2022

June Helen Hamaty Jones, 97, passed away peacefully on the morning of April 24, 2022, at Rosemark Assisted Living in Denver, Colorado.

June was born on June 17, 1924, in Houtzdale, Pennsylvania, to the late Elias and Catherine Hamaty. She was the only girl of four children, and is preceded in death by her brothers John, David and Dr. Daniel Hamaty.

June was funny, feisty and sharp to the end. She lived her life with zest and vigor, loved to travel, loved to share her faith and was very benevolent. Her long career in the Central Intelligence Agency made for some interesting times and on rare occasions, fascinating stories.

June is survived by her son, Dennis Jones of Nampa, Idaho; granddaughter, Dana Jones of Denver, Colorado; great-granddaughter Kaylin Bright (Wade) of Westminster, Colorado; and great-great grandchildren Rainbow, River and Canyon Bright.

A service will be planned at the Brisbin, Pennsylvania cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a contribution in June's honor to a charity of your choice.



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PART 2: POSTING AND PUBLISHING

PUBLISHING NOTICE

Please publish the following item in the **legal notice section** of your newspaper. Please refer to the instructions provided on page 16.

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

Trading as: OSAKA STEAK HOUSE & JAPANESE SUSHI
(trade name)
12760 DARBY BROOK CT.
(Location where business will trade)
WOODBRIIDGE
(city/town)
PRINCE WILLIAM, VIRGINIA 22192-2486
(county) (state) (zip + 4)

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

for a Wine and Beer On Premises license

to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.
ZHI LIN, PRESIDENT
(name and title of owner/partner/officer authorizing advertisement)

Date notice posted at establishment: _____

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

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received: _____ Referred to: _____ Application fee: _____
 Postmarked date: _____ Date referred: _____ License fee: _____
 Receipt no.: _____ Region: _____ CBC fee: _____
 License no.: _____ Territory no.: _____ Total: _____



Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority • www.abc.virginia.gov • 2901 Hermitage Road • Richmond, VA 23220 • (800) 552-3200

RETAIL LICENSE APPLICATION—PART 2 (POSTING AND PUBLISHING)

PUBLISHING NOTICE

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

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

Trading as: Magnolia
(trade name)
703 King St
(exact street address where business will trade)
Alexandria
(city/town)

_____ Virginia 22314
(county) (state) (zip + 4)

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

for a Wine and Beer on and off Premises/Mixed Beverage Restaurant license

to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

(name and title of owner/partner/officer authorizing advertisement)

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

LEGAL NOTICE



The Alexandria City School Board will hold a budget **public hearing** on the FY 2023 Combined Funds Budget and the FY 2023-2032 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget during the School Board Meeting on **May 19, 2022**, at **6:30 p.m.** in the School Board Meeting Room located at 1340 Braddock Place in Alexandria.

Public comments regarding the FY 2023 Combined Funds Budget and the FY 2023-2032 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget may be submitted in the following ways:

- **Sign up to speak** at the May 19th public hearing at: <https://acpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/wlfupe0e02qz4wi/>
- **Email written comments** to the Clerk of the Board at: boardclerk@acps.k12.va.us
- **U.S. Mail:** Clerk of the Board Alexandria City School Board 1340. Braddock Place Alexandria, VA 22314

Only comments related to the FY 2023 Combined Funds Budget and the FY 2023-2032 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget will be heard at the public hearing. Requests to speak or to submit written comments must be submitted by **Noon on May 18, 2022**.

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

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& Saturday 9-5. www.heritagepromotions.net 434-846-7452

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, May 18, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 on the following applications:

BAR #2022-00179 OHAD
Request for amendment to previously approved Permit to Demolish at 699 Prince Street parcel (625 Prince Street building) (Parcel ID 074.02-09-28).
Applicant: J River 699 Prince Street LLC

BAR #2022-00178 OHAD
Request for amendment to previously approved plans at 699 Prince Street parcel (625 Prince Street building) (Parcel ID 074.02-09-28).
Applicant: J River 699 Prince Street LLC

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 #2022-00174 PG
Request for complete demolition at 899 and 999 North Henry Street.
Applicant: Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority

BAR #2022-00175 PG
Request for concept review at 899 and 999 North Henry Street.
Applicant: Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority

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

Classifieds

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

TECHNOLOGY

mgm technology partners is looking for a Senior System Architect Global Solutions, to work at its Alexandria, VA office as a technical architect and design software solutions and architecture concepts, including system sizing, infrastructure and hardware selection, and system integration concepts. Must have Master's Degree, or foreign equivalent, in Computer Science, Information Technology, Physics, or related field. Must have ten (10) years of experience with (1) working as a technical lead, project manager, or architect in multiple large complex enterprise IT/software projects with the corresponding project management tools such as MS Project, MS Visio, MS Office Suite, Atlassian Jira, Atlassian Confluence Wiki, or similar; (2) designing, building and selling software architecture, including (a) system sizing, (b) hardware selection processes, (c) environment management, and (d) network and system landscape integration; and (3) data modelling, and integrating and managing backends with relational database such as DB2, Oracle, and MS SQL. Must also have five (5) years of experience with (1) eCommerce platforms or portal frameworks like SAP hybris, Intershop or Liferay; (2) DevOps concepts, build and deployment related tasks, including (a) management of distributed systems and clusters, (b) environment maintenance, (c) OS level system, and (d) IT infrastructure management; (3) design, architecture and implementation of authentication and authorization algorithms; and (4) query and script languages like SQL, Perl, Unix Shell. Must be fluent in English and German to allow for providing software architecture PM tasking to teams in U.S. and Ger-

many. 10% domestic travel and 10% international travel required. Use case in software programming test is part of application process. To apply please forward your resume and cover letter to our recruiting team at mgm-tp.us@mgm-tp.com.

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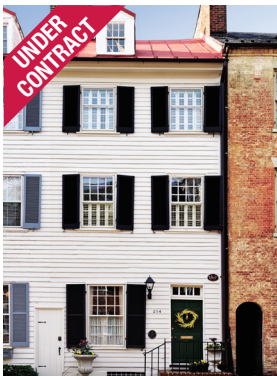
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FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
- A \$695 Value!

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



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Specializing in Old Town
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Thank you for joining me in supporting ACT for Alexandria!

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