The Zappa Band Plays The Birchmere

Lineup for first headlining tour includes former Frank Zappa alumni
BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

One word to describe the late musician Frank Zappa is eccentric. Another might be irreverent, avant-garde or even kooky. But Zappa was also hailed as a highly esteemed pioneer in music — one who explored many genre corners while candidly weaving in his own views on censorship, free speech, organized religion and education.

Throughout the course of his storied 30-year career, the self-taught musician produced more than 60 studio albums, ranging from jazz to rock to doo wop. Zappa directed music videos and films and spoke several times about social activism following a 1985 testimony he presented before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on music censorship. Zappa was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and awarded a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award for his work.

Although he passed away in December 1993 at age 52, PHOTOS/ANNIE LESSER

Announcement by Gregory Hutchings produces mixed community reaction
BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

Alexandria City Public Schools Superintendent Gregory Hutchings, Ed.D. announced his resignation from the district on June 10, leading community members to react and speculate about the circumstances surrounding his announcement.

The resignation, which goes into effect on Aug. 31, has produced mixed responses. Some have criticized his management style on various issues, while others have praised his leadership.

“It has been both an honor and a pleasure to work alongside Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr. He has led our school division during extremely tumultuous times and, in doing so, has modeled for all of us what it means to lead with vision, integrity, and passion. Alexandria City Public Schools has benefited tremendously from his leadership. As a board, we are sad to see him go, but we wish him the very best in his future endeavors. I have no doubt that we will see him doing great things that will impact public education beyond the boundaries of Alexandria City Public Schools,” Chair Meagan Alderton said of his resignation in a statement.

Hutchings, who started in July 2018, has received heat over numerous issues during his time as superintendent. Despite Hutchings’ oft-repeated goal of “Equity for All,” the achievement gap between Black and Hispanic students and their white and Asian counterparts grew when learning shifted to virtual-only during COVID-19. Hutchings was criticized by many parents for not taking the initiative to resume in-person instruction sooner, and for working on his book last summer instead of leading the preparation to resume ACPS superintendent resigns

business

Learn about businesses making waves in the city.

City

City Council holds legislative meeting.

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Christine Roland Garner
*It’s not just my business, it’s my neighborhood!*

Let me put my 34 years of experience to work for you!

**GEORGE WASHINGTON PARK | $2,200,000**

Timeless elegance and panoramic vistas from this classic brick four square perched majestically in the shadow of the Masonic Temple! This landmark residence has been brought back to life by Bluestone Builders in collaboration with Thompson Moran Design team. The home is the epitome of classic: with approx. 3,400 sq ft with 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2 covered porches, a gracious front entry foyer and a light filled home with an open floor plan, exposed brick wall and gourmet kitchen with center island! The main and upper level have 9 foot ceilings, transom windows above the doors, wide plank wood flooring, open staircase, 9” baseboard and oversized 2 over 1 windows. Entertaining is effortless with the open circular floor plan making this the social center of the home. Beautiful french doors lead to the back porch overlooking rear yard... perfect for al-fresco dining. The dining room has a secondary entry & powder room tucked away off the hall. The second level has an owners suite with custom built-ins & wainscotting, 2 walk-in closets, luxurious bathroom and a Jack & Jill bath flanked by two additional spacious bedrooms. The third level offers panoramic views of the City, full bath, 3 walk-in closets making a perfect guest suite or home office! The lower level incorporates an au pair suite/guest room, full bath, family room w service bar, laundry & private entrance. 2 off-street parking spaces. Blocks to Metro!

Christine Garner (703) 587-4855

*My Priorities Are Simple...They’re Yours!*

For additional information & photos, go to: www.ChristineGarner.com
The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a shots fired incident that occurred on June 9 in the 700 block of North Fayette Street. One man was shot and transported to the hospital in critical condition after the incident. APD Public Information Officer Marcel Bassett said in a statement that the 29-year-old victim is “still recovering and it is believed he will be ok.” No arrests have been made and the incident remains under investigation.

-ckane@alextimes.com

Alexandria Times wins four SPJ awards

The Alexandria Times received four first place awards Tuesday night from the Society of Professional Journalists at their Dateline Awards banquet.

Times Managing Editor Olivia Anderson won first place for investigative journalism for her story, “Bondsman’s gun used in murder of Dominguez.” Times Publisher Denise Dunbar won first place for editorial writing for “An astonishing, shameful action.” Times Columnist Rob Whittle won first place for his column, “Dogs to love.” Former Times Editor Cody Melo-Klein won first place for his sports feature, “Going for gold.” Additionally, former Times intern Allison Hageman was a finalist for her story, “Alexandrians band together to help each other find vaccine appointments.”

-ddunbar@alextimes.com

Torpedo Factory Art Center task force applications

The City of Alexandria is accepting applications for two positions on the Torpedo Factory Art Center Stakeholder Task Force, according to a news release.

The 20-member task force is made up of artists, tourism representatives, local businesses and commissioners.

According to the news release, the task force aims to “develop an approach to address vibrancy and sustainability” of the Torpedo Factory. The task force will work with staff and consultants to improve artist diversity in the community and participate in various engagement activities like open house events and town halls.

Members are selected through an open application process and will be reviewed by City Manager Jim Parajon. Once the members are selected, the Stakeholder Task Force process is expected to take approximately 10 to 12 months.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on June 24. For more information, visit alexandriava.gov/TorpedoFactory.

-oanderson@alextimes.com

A Beautiful Mind

You can’t protect your teen from everything but you will sleep better at night, knowing that they’re safe from meningitis.

www.vahealthy.org/meningitis
Bishop Ireton High School has announced its 2022 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees that include two athletes, two coaches and one team, according to a news release.

Shannon Varner graduated from BI in 1976 and competed on the varsity swim team for four years in the distance freestyle, individual medley and butterfly divisions. In ’76 he served as co-captain and was awarded a National High School All-American ranking as well as receiving the Alexandria Sportsman’s Club Swimmer of the Year in both ’75 and ’76.

Lisa Strittmatter McLaughlin graduated from BI in 1999 and was a four year starter on the varsity softball team. During her time at BI she was awarded the Cardinal North/South Tournament Co-MVP, Cardinal Defensive Player of the Year and Bishop Ireton MVP.

Cheerleading coach Angela Hope-Eskew has been with the team since 2009 leading them to win many Regional and Classic Championship titles. In 2015 she began the Cardinal Winter Blast Cheerleading competition held at BI, where her team holds four out of the five first place championship titles.

Lacrosse coach Rick Sofield led the girls team to five WCAC championship titles and four VISAA state championship titles during his time at BI from 2011-2021. He guided many of his players to top NCAA programs around the country. Sofield won more than 77% of games as a coach and was named a USA Today National Coach of the year.

The 2014 girls lacrosse team was also inducted into the 2022 Athletic Hall of Fame as one of the most successful teams in BI school history. They won the WCAC Championship, the VISAA State Championship and were nationally ranked that year.

The Hall of Fame Induction and Dinner will be held Oct. 22 with a reception from 6 to 7 p.m. and the induction beginning at 7 p.m. It will be held at The Westin in Alexandria.
OLD TOWN
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Volunteer Alexandria will hold the annual Arts and Crafts Fair on June 25.

**Annual Arts and Crafts Fair**

Volunteer Alexandria will host the free annual Arts and Crafts Fair on June 25. The fair will be held at Market Square from 3 to 8 p.m. The fair will include more than 70 craft vendors, food and beverage and face painting provided by Cozy Corner Face Painting.

The fair showcases local and regional artists who display their mediums in pottery, stationary, photography, painting, jewelry and fabric. Categories of vendors range from clothing to body products to accessories and home/garden.

At the fair, Taino Foods will be providing authentic Puerto Rican cuisine and Bunny and the Bear Food Festival will offer fair-goers fresh smoothies, according to Volunteer Alexandria’s website.

Volunteer Alexandria needs volunteers age 14 and older to help with various tasks during the fair as well as clean up and set up. There are multiple shifts available for volunteers to sign up for throughout the day, including tent set up beginning at 1:30 p.m. and break down from 8 to 9:30 p.m. Other shifts with available slots start at 2:45 p.m. and include welcoming guests and helping to enforce the fair’s rules and regulations.

Volunteers are needed to help the vendors set up their booths in order to make the event a success. If interested in making the fair a successful event sign up to volunteer at VolunteerAlexandria.org.

-oanderson@alextimes.com

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**City to hold Juneteenth events**

The City of Alexandria is celebrating the Juneteenth holiday with several commemorative events and closing businesses.

In honor of the holiday, which is on June 19, all government offices will be closed on Monday, June 20. This includes city courts, Department of Motor Vehicles, health facilities and the impound facility.

All museums except Gadsby’s Tavern, the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and the Freedom House Museum will be closed.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria will be closed on June 19 but open on June 20. Libraries, the Charles Houston Recreation Center and Torpedo Factory Art Center will be open on June 20.

The city will also hold various Juneteenth celebrations such as Storytime with the Black History Museum on June 18, a Jubilee Voices concert titled “Singing the Journey” at Market Square on June 19, and the city’s long-anticipated Freedom House Museum grand opening on June 20.

-oanderson@alextimes.com
ALEXANDRIA COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Congratulates the Class of 2022!


Second Row L-R: Isabella Brown, Olivia Hooff, Lauren Whitman, Miranda Lacy, Cassidy Tucker, Astrid Ellehuus, Jane Naegele

Front Row L-R: Rachel Greenberg, Claire Egusa, Liana Gomez, Mia Katsos, Rena Cooper, Vivian Kocsis, Logan Milton, Olivia Cushman, Chloe Tate

Not pictured: Inaya Usman

Members of the Class of 2022 have been offered admission to and/or will be attending the following high schools:

Alexandria Country Day School is a leading K-8, coed, independent school in the Del Ray community of Alexandria. We provide a challenging academic program; numerous arts and athletics offerings; a robust and integrated approach to social-emotional learning; a school-wide service learning program; and an innovative public speaking curriculum. To learn more, visit www.acdsnet.org or call 703-837-1303.
Business bytes

City plans for summer tourism
BY CATHERINE KANE

Even as fuel and flight prices soar, Alexandria is expected to continue its strong tourism recovery this summer. City officials and local business leaders are looking forward to a summer of rebounding retail, restaurant and hospitality revenue.

Visit Alexandria, the city’s tourism office, is planning a number of promotions and events this summer to boost economic activity. The Key to the City Hotel Bonus, launched this spring, provides guests who stay at participating hotels with a complimentary Key to the City Attractions Passes; the passes provide free access to a variety of historical sites and museums. On July 29, Port City Brewing will be hosting FOX 5 News’ “Zip Trip” series highlighting “Alexandria’s West End neighborhood and businesses in a multi-hour live news production,” according to Visit Alexandria’s Rebecca Doser.

Joe Haggerty, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce president and CEO, said that the city has continued to be “flexible and supportive” in aiding businesses’ recovery from the pandemic. The city’s fiscal year 2020 financial report noted an 8.6% – or $12.1 million – decrease in local tax revenue from 2019 and attributed this decline to pandemic-related economic woes. In the 2021 financial report, the local tax revenue increased “due to a stronger than expected recovery in business and sales taxes.”

The summer months tend to be fruitful for local businesses in the city as domestic, international and local tourists flock to restaurants, hotels and historic attractions. Haggerty said that this summer, the Chamber and Visit Alexandria will be focused on advertising Alexandria’s businesses to local tourists who live within 50 miles of the city. This summer will be the first time that the DASH bus is fare-free; Haggerty anticipates “development” due to the city’s overhauling of the bus system last fall.

A cornerstone of the city’s hospitality sector hasn’t rebounded to pre-pandemic levels. “Business travel isn’t back yet,” Haggerty said. “Hotels are at about 65% occupancy right now.”

In the Chamber’s 2022 Legislative Agenda, they urged the city to consider making temporary, pandemic zoning regulations permanent and prioritize economic recovery for small businesses in their allocation of federal COVID-19 relief dollars. Haggerty said he is optimistic about this summer as the city continues its “strong economic recovery.”

ckane@alextimes.com

Speak Easy, the Alexandria Times podcast.

Find us on Spotify, iTunes and Audible – or wherever you listen to your podcasts.
Land Rover dealership moves, replaced by affordable housing

Land Rover and Jaguar of Alexandria has moved to a newly constructed location in the Alexandria part of Fairfax. The dealership, owned by Beyer Automotive Group, outgrew its former location on Duke Street in Alexandria, according to Chief Operating Officer John Altman.

The dealership is now located on Van Dorn Street and boasts 20 service bays on its 52,000 square foot location. The team of technicians to service the luxury vehicles has also expanded. Jaguar plans to produce only electric vehicles by 2025, a big change the new dealership is primed to accommodate.

A new affordable housing project will be built on the dealership’s old site. The 94-unit apartment building is being developed in partnership with Community Housing Partners, a nonprofit organization that works with municipalities and private companies to build affordable housing communities. This will be the organization’s first project with the city.

According to the organization’s application for a pre-development loan from the city, the building will be four to five stories and have two and three bedroom rentals. The project is focused on accommodating low income families and 10% of the units will be set aside for people with disabilities.

The apartments will be leased to residents whose income is between 40% and 60% of the average median income of the area. The city and CHP’s current projection is for the project to be completed by December 2026. The development backs up to Witter Fields, public soccer fields that the city says will enhance the quality of life for residents.

While the new luxury dealership is up and running, CHP plans to break ground in January 2024.

-Jollibee opens first Alexandria location

On Wednesday, Jollibee opened its new location in the Lincolnia neighborhood at 4809 Beauregard St.

The location used to be home to Boston Market, but will now be the home of Northern Virginia’s first Jollibee location, complete with a drive-through.

Jollibee specializes in comfort food like fried chicken, burgers, french fries and pies with a “Filipino twist.” According to the Jollibee website, the chain is famous for their Chickenjoy fried chicken meals. It’s also known for Filipino sides like sweet spaghetti and a growing dessert menu.

The chain fast food fried chicken restaurant started in the Philippines and now has about 70 locations in the United States and 1,300 locations worldwide including in Europe, the Middle East, East Asia and Southeast Asia.

The chain was started in the Philippines in 1978 but didn’t reach America until the Daly City, California location opened in 1998, according to the website.

For more information on the grand opening in Alexandria and the full Jollibee menu visit jollibeefoods.com.

-Jkmcdonald@alextimes.com

PHOTO/CHESAPEAKE CONTRACTING GROUP

PHOTO/JOLLIBEE ALEXANDRIA

The new Jaguar Land Rover dealership is located at 5636 S. Van Dorn St.

PHOTO/JOLLIBEE ALEXANDRIA

The Jollibee Alexandria location is the first to open in Northern Virginia.
Zappa's legacy has lived on through his music, fans and the many artists who played with him over the years.

Now, for the first time, the Zappa Band is launching a headlining tour across North America, with The Birchmere on Sunday as one of its stops.

The Zappa Band consists mostly of former members of Zappa's previous bands. They include guitarist and lead vocalist Ray White; guitarist, keyboardist and vocalist Mike Keneally; bassist Scott Thunes; keyboardist, saxist and vocalist Robert Martin; guitarist Jamie Kime and drummer and vocalist Joe Travers.

Each musician played either in the studio and on the road with Zappa himself, or in Zappa Plays Zappa, a tribute band led by Zappa's son Dweezil Zappa.

White, who is the longest-standing member of Zappa's band, told the Times that the group's conception and subsequent tour came about organically.

The group opened for progressive rock band King Crimson in 2021 and were widely well-received. Because of the positive response and natural dynamic among the members, they wanted to keep playing together.

"The genesis for this tour came out of that, because when we came out the house was full for the opening act, which was unusual," White said. "It was really cool. There was something happening. Then there was the move to do this tour, and it’s not a long tour, but it’s the beginning of something."

Reflecting on the past

In 1976 White was playing with electric blues singer Lady Bianca, who recommended him to Zappa. White secured an audition, in which Zappa asked if he could sing.

"I told a big lie. I said, 'a little bit,'” White, who now sings lead vocals with the Zappa Band, said. "The manager walks over, walks me across the big rehearsal floor, starts breaking down the pay and all that stuff. I had the gig and these guys were still trying out back there."


According to White, Zappa was known to have somewhat of a mercurial temperament that some people had trouble handling. The moodiness would emerge during particularly enervating times, such as two-plus hour soundchecks.

At one particular soundcheck, White made a mistake on stage which caused Zappa to get visibly frustrated. But White, who had grown accustomed to Zappa’s nuances and idiosyncrasies, knew exactly how to diffuse the situation.

“I said, ‘Oh, was that the same chord they played in..."
“Stranded in the Jungle”? It’s this old 50s song. He goes, “Yeah! That was a great chord. That was a great song.” And bam, he’s out of that dark place he was in,” White said.

Following many more similar instances of White pulling him out of a funk, Zappa started calling him “The Governor.” The name acknowledged White’s ability to mediate conflict among the other bandmates as well, who would occasionally engage in tiffs or disagreements.

“I don’t like controversy. I don’t like conflict. So, when the guys in the band would get into a conflict, I’d sort of worm my way into the middle of it and try to find peace,” White said.

According to White, although Zappa was a “hard taskmaster,” he wouldn’t have had it any other way.

“If you’re running a sprint, you don’t want to be in a race with people who run really slow. You don’t get pushed, and you don’t push them,” White said. “But if somebody’s ahead of the game a little bit in one area, and it’s difficult at first for you to grasp it, you have to keep trying and the more you push, the more determined you are to do this, and you rise to the occasion. He was good at that. He found everybody’s strength and those strengths were used in the ensemble.”

Zappa also had a very specific sense of humor, White recalled, often cracking jokes off stage and whispering jokes to bandmates on stage to make them laugh. While on tour in Southern France in the early 1980s, White approached the microphone to sing during a concert – only to hear Zappa yelling nonsense directly into his ears.
White started to laugh, took a step back, and walked back up to the microphone. Zappa walked over a second time, said more nonsense, causing White to laugh again. He took a step back, walked back to the microphone a third time, and Zappa repeated his antics.

So, White took matters into his own hands and proceeded to lay down on the stage to perform. Zappa placed the microphone near White's mouth, who performed the entire song on his back in the middle of the stage.

"He was making me laugh so I said, 'Okay dude, I'm not doing this. I'm just going to lay down," White said. "It was great. There was fun. There was a lot of fun.”

Honoring the legacy

The tour, which began on June 12 and will run through June 26, provides an opportunity for longtime Zappa fans to relive the live concert experience and for those who never saw him to get a taste of what it might have been like.

Some of the guys knew each other previously – Thunes and White played with Zappa at the same time, for instance – and others did not. Keneally actually took White’s place when he opted out of a tour in the 1980s.

But throughout the tour, the six of them quickly developed a rapport. Thunes has a dry sense of humor, White said, “and it cracks me up because if you don't understand it you'll think it’s serious.”

Keneally is known as the sharing, loving one; Travers as kind and intentional; Kime as a true musician with a fluid, melodic sensibility; and Martin as the playful one who “was playing on almost every hit record that came out of Philadelphia back in the day.”

And White?

“I'm the only non-reader, so I have to figure things out in my own way. I have to hear it; just give it to me, don't tell me the timing, just let me hear it,” White said. “So [we all] have our own way. They’re all good guys.”

Beyond their natural dynamic, the glue that holds the group together is Zappa’s music. Through the tour, White emphasized, the greater aim is to honor Zappa’s legacy and simultaneously provide an evening of unbridled entertainment.

From the set list, attendees can expect a combination of music from various albums throughout the years, as well as some added flourishes and creative spins from the Zappa Band. There will be expert-level playing and a whole lot of fun, White promised.

Because many Zappa songs included various arrangements, the rehearsal and touring experience has been a give and take in determining which Zappa arrangements to go with, and where to mix and match various components.

White said this tour is just the beginning of carrying forward his memory.

“There are so many ways to pay respect to his music, and it's not just his music, it’s the music, period," White said. “You feel so aligned. [It's] being faithful and true to what you do, and having guys around you who allow you to do it.”

With this event marking the Zappa Band's first time at The Birchmere, White had one main tip for concert-goers to maximize the experience: “Think of being fluid. Don’t think of being static. Think of building a fire really slow. Now you're there, together. It’s like having a really intimate moment. [The audience] gives in, they close their eyes, then they open their eyes and say, ‘Yeah, I get it,’” White said. “Man, you can't get better than that.”

-oanderson@alexetimes.com
CONGRATULATIONS GRACE GRADUATES

We are extremely proud of the 2022 fifth grade graduating class! These bright students will go to the following schools in the fall:

Alexandria Country Day School (1) • Commonwealth Academy (1)
Congressional School (1) • George Washington Middle School (1)
Holy Trinity School (1) • St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School (4)
in-person classes last fall.

Most recently, Hutchings admonished the School Board, which oversees his position, to refrain from speaking with media following an alleged sexual assault at Minnie Howard and a deadly stabbing at Bradlee Shopping Center.

ACPS Parent Amy Hillis thought Hutchings was out of line in trying to muzzle the School Board.

“I felt he was very disrespectful to the board in terms of saying, ‘You shouldn’t be talking to the media.’ I really felt like those were anti-democratic statements, and in this age, those are big red flags,” Hillis said.

Hutchings supporters point to successes like the launch of The Identity Project, a community-wide initiative to rename two schools, initiating an equity policy audit and achieving ACPS’ highest graduation rate and lowest dropout rate since the state began reporting this data.

He reflected on his time with ACPS and future plans in an email to families, stating that “it is clear to me that this is the next phase of my career as an educator and the time has come for me to take this leap of faith, expand my reach, and move the needle on racial equity in education.”

“I have faith in the team that will soon be charged with keeping ACPS moving forward. Thank you for the opportunity to lead this amazing community of educators and to serve as an example to our students, so that they, too, can have their dream job. My hope is that ACPS will continue to develop lifelong learners who will continue to pay it forward,” Hutchings said.

Hillis said her reaction to Hutchings’ resignation was equal parts relief and surprise. When she heard the announcement, she’d been in the process of crafting a petition to put Hutchings on notice due to many parents’ perception that he had not been focusing on the right issues during COVID-19.

In Hillis’ view, some of the main concerns among parents included Hutchings’ aversion to media and parent inquiry, handling of violence in schools and COVID-19 safety. Hillis said many parents and community members in her circles have expressed relief upon hearing the news of Hutchings’ pending departure.

“I felt that there was a fundamental lack of communication and respect for all parents. I think that came through in his demeanor at School Board meetings, his lack of responsiveness to parents’ emails and phone calls,” Hillis said. “… I don’t think he had the tools in his toolbox to be a leader in a crisis of a massive organization. … That’s how I see it; maybe the duck was paddling under the water and none of us saw it, but that’s also his responsibility: to inform us.”

She also expressed frustration regarding the previous School Board’s decision to effectively renew his contract more than a year before it was needed. The renewal, which went into effect last year and was scheduled to run through June 30, 2025, included a clause that allowed for mutual separation that reads, “The Board and the Division Superintendent may agree in writing to terminate this Second Agreement on such terms as may be mutually acceptable.” However, the contract also states that if the superintendent voluntarily resigns, “all
St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes School
CONGRATULATES THE CLASS OF 2022

We are proud of our 117 graduates and their accomplishments!
The Class of 2022 will be attending the following colleges and universities:

- Bates College (2)
- Boston College (3)
- Bucknell University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Christopher Newport University
- Clemson University
- Colgate University
- College of Charleston
- College of the Holy Cross
- College of William & Mary (4)
- Colorado Mesa University
- Columbia University
- Concordia University (Canada)
- Connecticut College
- Cornell University
- Denison University
- Drexel University (3)
- Elon University (2)
- Franklin & Marshall College (3)
- Georgia Tech
- Harvard University
- Haverford College
- High Point University
- James Madison University
- Lafayette College (2)
- Long Island University
- Loyola University (Maryland) (4)
- Merrimack College
- Northeastern University
- Northern Virginia Community College
- Northwestern University
- Oberlin College
- Oxford College at Emory University
- Pennsylvania State University (2)
- Savannah College of Art & Design (2)
- Shepherd College
- Skidmore College (3)
- Spelman College
- St. Francis University (Pennsylvania)
- Swarthmore College
- Syracuse University
- Temple University
- Tennessee State University
- The Ohio State University
- Towson University
- Tulane University (4)
- United States Air Force Academy
- United States Naval Academy
- University of Alabama (4)
- University of Buffalo (2)
- University of Chicago (2)
- University of Colorado – Boulder (4)
- University of Delaware (2)
- University of Denver
- University of Florida
- University of Hartford
- University of Maryland – Baltimore County
- University of Maryland – College Park
- University of Miami (Florida)
- University of Michigan (3)
- University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill (2)
- University of Notre Dame
- University of South Carolina
- University of Virginia (6)
- University of Wisconsin (2)
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia Tech (2)
- Wake Forest University
- Washington & Lee University (2)
- Wyoming Seminary Prep/Lafayette College
- Yale University (2)
salary and benefits such as unused vacation and sick leave provisions shall cease as of the effective date of such resignation.” If Hutchings’ departure had fallen under the “voluntary resignation” category of the contract, he would not be leaving with most of the $185,857 he is receiving from the separation agreement.

As a result of the early contract renewal and Hutchings’ departure under the “mutual agreement” section of his contract, the separation agreement says that he will be paid four month’s salary, which the agreement states is $85,537, as part of his severance package. This total is at odds with the contract, the separation agreement states is $85,537, as part of his severance package. This total is at odds with the contract renewal

As part of his remaining leave payout, Hutchings will receive his vacation leave balance, totaling $21,380; and 79 days of sick leave, totaling $39,500. He will also receive an additional retirement contribution of $30,000 and four months of COBRA coverage worth $9,440.

“As personally, that’s the part I find terribly offensive, because the School Board issued that contract with him. If they hadn’t issued that contract, we wouldn’t be in the hole for all that. It would have just been a natural separation and we just wouldn’t have had to pay out his contact,” Hillis said.

According to former School Board member Margaret Lorber, Hutchings requested the early contract renewal, and much of the board supported it.

“We were huge supporters of his,” Lorber said. “He requested it. This was something Dr. Hutchings felt would make him more comfortable – the security of a contract. As for me, I wanted it because I wanted him to stay if he was willing to stay.”

Lorber expressed support for Hutchings and his contributions to ACPS. She said the COVID-19 pandemic threw a wrench in some of those efforts, but that Hutchings did “an excellent job” given the circumstances.

Although Hutchings’ push for racial equity and visionary ideas for the district were partially thwarted, Lorber said she supports his future endeavors.

“What he was trying to do really got derailed because of COVID, and my sadness is that if COVID had not happened, we would still have Dr. Hutchings, because the City of Alexandria would have been a wonderful case study for him,” Lorber said. “I think it’s fabulous that he’s launched a career in consulting school systems that truly want to address this issue. Our school system would have been a good one, but COVID just made it impossible.”

Next steps include heading the company Revolutionary Ed., LLC, which was registered in 2021. The organization’s website includes information about his just released book, “Getting into Good Trouble at School: A Guide to Building an Antiracist School System,” which includes methods to dismantle racist policies “that for centuries have kept students of color from experiencing educational engagement, opportunities and success as their white counterparts.”

Sabine Mead, former Student Government Association president and recent Alexandria City High School graduate, said that she had heard students express frustrations regarding Hutchings’ leadership style, specifically surrounding school violence, COVID-19 and media inquiries, but that she still didn’t completely foresee the abruptness of his resignation.

“I guess I had underestimated how much of a force that was in public opinion and how much pressure people were putting on the School Board,” Mead said. “I talked about it with my parents once or twice but no one else has been talking about it, which I found a little odd.”

Hillas emphasized that the main quality she values in a future superintendent is one who knows how to effectively lead and embolden large groups of people.

“It doesn’t have to be somebody with some groundbreaking idea about equity or how to teach children to read – they can have that core foundation, but I would rather have somebody who’s really good at empowering the teachers and the staff to do what they’ve been trained to do, and to communicate with the community,” Hillis said.

Mead said that her hope for the future superintendent is one who nurtures, lifts and celebrates the diverse population of ACPS students.

“For me, the number one thing is transparency and student voices,” Mead said. “In the search for a new superintendent, I think students’ voices should be centered, of course, but especially the students who are underrepresented. I think that a new superintendent should be able to work with that, to be able to work with the public opinion and really understanding… what goes on in our schools and the unique needs of our students.”

-oanderson@alextimes.com

Denise Dunbar contributed to this story.
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The City Council held a legislative meeting on Tuesday and approved permits, appointments to committees and discussed upcoming developments.

The city was recently awarded a $60,000 grant from the Amazon Housing Equity Fund to conduct a feasibility study for an affordable housing development. The grant, which Mayor Justin Wilson said was received after a “terribly competitive” application process, will explore two possible sites for below market rental units. Both sites, near the Van Dorn Metro station and Eisenhower Ave Metro station, respectively, reflect the focus on housing developments near transit for this round of Amazon funding.

In sharing the news, Wilson applauded the city’s staff for “putting together a competitive application” and “to the extent that there is funding in the future” they would “certainly be seeking it.”

The council also received a presentation from the Housing Office on two loans to build affordable housing units in conjunction with nonprofit partners. Vice Mayor Amy Jackson asked about one of the project’s adjacency to Witter Field and how the “lights and noise” from the field might impact residents.

Helen McIlvaine, the city’s director of housing, responded that a parking lot would serve as a buffer between the field and apartment building and that the public field would be a great benefit for residents.

Councilor John Chapman praised the Housing Office’s collaboration with nonprofits to build affordable housing.

“That’s how we get it done,” he said.

Additionally, a new permitted parking zone was approved in the Potomac Greens neighborhood. Residents of the neighborhood voted overwhelmingly in favor of the restrictions in anticipation of the new Potomac Yards Metro station opening. Concerns about commuters parking on the residential streets around the station led to the proposal.

-ckane@alextimes.com
City Council, School Board discuss student safety

Centering of student voices, city partnerships emphasized
BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

City Council and the Alexandria School Board held a joint meeting on Monday, in which they discussed ways to bolster student safety in schools.

In the meeting, both parties addressed how they can work together to reduce gun violence; identify gaps in systems and processes that result in student violence; and identify the expected products of the School Law Enforcement Partnership.

The meeting came following a school year rife with violence throughout, that culminated May 24 when Alexandria City High School student Luis Mejia Hernandez died after being stabbed at Bradlee Shopping Center. A 16-year-old student has been arrested and charged with murder in Mejia Hernandez’ killing.

“This is really an opportunity to think about, ‘How do we activate multiple departments? How do we activate and mobilize every resource we have available to ensure the health and safety of our young people?’” Councilor Alyia Gaskins said at the top of the meeting. “… It really is a starting point and a call to action to give space for us to listen to our young people, hear what they have to say, be able to evaluate what we’re currently doing, identify the things that we’re not doing, and then put in a plan that we are holding ourselves accountable to.”

A memo, written by Gaskins and Mayor Justin Wilson, outlined possible reform policies that address youth trauma and mental health; coordinate across sectors to identify challenges, needs and opportunities; develop sustainable strategies to align services and existing initiatives; identify metrics and transparent processes to ensure accountability; prioritize equity; and target investment at identified gaps.

The memo recommended partnering with ACT’s Alex-
Alexandria Youth Council and other youth leadership organizations are host a youth safety and violence prevention summit where youth can share concerns openly. It also recommended organizing a special task force with representatives from youth-serving agencies to turn the summit discussion into an action plan, reviewing SLEP recommendations and potentially using American Rescue Plan Act funds to implement the action plan.

Superintendent Gregory Hutchings, Ed.D., did not attend the meeting. Hutchings announced his resignation from Alexandria City Public Schools on June 10.

During the discussion, School Board member Michelle Rief emphasized the importance of not just engaging in a “one and done” approach, expressing concern that many students feel there is a lack of care from the community. She supported the memo recommendations but suggested looking forward to longer-term solutions as well, specifically ones that engage students.

“Maybe it’s less of a report and recommendations that we’re looking for, but more of an opportunity to have this ongoing dialogue with youth, parents and our community,” Rief said.

Multiple people pointed out the unlikelihood of discovering brand new solutions that have never before been explored but said taking reiterative steps would still be helpful.

Councilor Sarah Bagley expressed support for heading into the next school year with a concrete plan regarding student safety, even if the steps are small and incremental.

“Even publicizing and uplifting options – let’s at least try to have something to point to before this next school year and then maintain it as a process,” Bagley said. “... Even if it’s just drawing up a memo of existing tools that parents may not have been aware of, teachers, students, that we want to make sure they are, maybe fund additionally in whatever emergency ways that we have, and then continue the conversation.”

The meeting also touched on the SLEP committee, with Councilor Kirk McPike asking if everyone except council’s appointed member is assembled. Chair Meagan Alderton confirmed that the group is otherwise set and that the first meeting was scheduled for Tuesday.

That group is composed of ACPS student administrators, the Alexandria Police Department and community members. It will evaluate the partnership between ACPS and APD in regard to the district’s school resource officer program.

Alderton said the plan is to present a final recommendation to the board in December.

“There will be a series of meetings. We’re also going to have some checkpoints with the board, so as they’re doing their work, when we’re in agenda setting we’ll determine at what points we’ll get some updates to the School Board from the committee,” Alderton said.

At their Tuesday legislative meeting, council approved former School Board member Chris Lewis as the city’s representative for SLEP. Although there was some debate about whether to appoint Lewis or Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Service Unit Director Mike Mackey, whom Vice Mayor Amy Jackson said would bring more of a “neutrality factor,” Bagley made the motion to appoint Lewis, with Councilor John Chapman seconding. “Having people who have been at the table already in the past in developing this partnership and seeing it evolve, I think will matter,” Chapman said. “... Somebody who has been a former School Board member and on the other side of receiving that policy would be a perfect person to give the correct policy and appropriate policy to a group of School Board members.”

The resolution passed 6-1, with Jackson dissenting.

-oanderson@alextimes.com

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‘Cha Cha Real Smooth’ brings modern-day nostalgia

BY RICHARD ROEPER

Writer-director-star Cooper Raiff’s smart and charming and delightfully offbeat “Cha Cha Real Smooth” is a movie very much of the present day, but there’s something almost nostalgically about the self-consciously indie material, in that it reminded me of somewhat similarly themed gems such as “Rushmore” (1998), “Igby Goes Down” (1998) and “Tadpole” (1998) – and all of these films are generational descendants of “The Graduate” (1966).

The protagonists of the former three films were eccentric, mildly rebellious, anxious but empathetic teenagers engaging in possibly romantic entanglements with older women, while Raiff’s Andrew is, like Dustin Hoffman’s Benjamin Braddock, a recent college grad who is eccentric, mildly rebellious, anxious but empathetic and has a crush on an older woman.

At the age of 22, Andrew sports the kind of beard usually favored by middle-aged men and has a slightly awkward, grows-on-you handsomeness (he could play Adam Scott’s son). Andrew has gone through college, but he has absolutely no idea what he wants to do with his life, so he works a soul-crushing job behind the counter at a fast food joint called Meat Sticks, pines over a girlfriend who has moved to Barcelona and apparently has moved on from him – and still shares a bedroom in Jersey with his 10-years-younger brother, David (Evan Assante), in the home of their stepfather, Greg (Brad Garrett), whom they call “Stepdad Greg,” and their mother (Leslie Mann), who is coping with bipolar disorder and is fiercely protective of her sons.

Whatever dreams Andrew might have had as a kid, he’s definitely NOT living those dreams.

Chaperoning his brother to one of what appears to be an endless medley of bar and bat mitzvahs in the neighborhood, Andrew meets Lola (Vanessa Burghardt), a new student at David’s school who is autistic, and Lola’s mother, Domino (Dakota Johnson), who had Lola at a young age and has raised her on her own but is now engaged to a lawyer named Joseph (Raul Castillo), whom we won’t meet until much later in the story because he spends most of his time in Chicago working on a big case.

As Lola sits in a corner, wearing oversized headphones and working a puzzle, Andrew makes it his mission to get her on the dance floor – and he does it with such sincerity and utterly without condescension, and that’s the moment we’re taken with him, as is Domino. She asks Andrew if he wouldn’t mind babysitting for Lola from time to time, and that could be weird but it’s not. It’s just something that happens, and something that brings Andrew and Domino close, and as to whether that evolves into a romance, I’ll leave it to you to discover. Suffice to say as a writer, the 25-year-old Raiff has an impressive skill set that enables him to simultaneously embrace certain cliches while saying something fresh.

For all of Andrew’s admirable qualities – he’s a fantastic older brother to David, and even his unwarranted teasing of Stephad Greg is laced with an undercurrent of respect for how much Greg loves his mom – he can also be kind of a jerk when his feelings are hurt, or he feels underappreciated. He’s hired as a host for the aforementioned slew of bar/bat mitzvahs, and he has a knack for getting the party started, as they say, but he has a bad tendency to drink too much at these events. Not good, Andrew. This leads to some borderline slapstick hijinks and some major laughs, and also a great moment of triumph for Stepdad Greg, who deserves just such a moment.

Raiff and cinematographer Christina Dunlap serve up appealing visuals throughout, giving the film an authentic look (with Pittsburgh filling in for Jersey) but also some appropriately lush, saturated-colors moments when Andrew sees Domino in a certain light, so to speak. Mann delivers beautifully nuanced work, though the screenplay doesn’t delve too deeply into her character’s condition, while young actors Burghardt and Assante are utterly likable and real.

Johnson continues her string of wonderful performances in quality films (“The Peanut Butter Falcon,” “The High Note,” “The Lost Daughter”) with luminous work here, playing a woman who is almost unbearably sad and lonely at times, but doesn’t really have the luxury of indulging in that, because she has a daughter who needs her every waking moment. As an actor, Raiff has an easy, comfortable screen presence. To be sure, he gives himself a plethora of terrific lines and maybe a few too many adoring close-ups – but you can’t blame a guy for directing himself to the cusp of stardom, can ya?
Cherry Blossom Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly has officially opened and is actively serving participants. A new medical and long-term care provider located at 1901 N Beauregard St., Suite 110, Cherry Blossom PACE is focused on enabling adults age 55 and over who need significant care support to remain independent and live in the community for as long as safely possible.

The organization supports its participants through an individualized care plan, developed by its interdisciplinary team in conjunction with the participant and his or her family caregivers. With an individualized approach, the interdisciplinary team, or IDT, is able to meet the needs of each specific participant. Services are tailored for each participant and include a combination of primary care, nursing, therapy, transportation, day center, nutrition, homecare, social work and more.

Cherry Blossom PACE operates out of a new, 15,000 square feet physical center. Designed with seniors in mind, this warm and welcoming center combines the benefits of a primary care clinic, therapy and rehab space and a day center. Transportation is provided for participants to and from their homes to the day center, and while at the center, participants can socialize, eat a nutritious lunch and participate in engaging activities. Since the clinic and therapy spaces are collocated, participants can also see their providers and therapists as needed.

The organization also coordinates all medical care on behalf of its participants and families. This means that the burden of coordinating care across specialists, navigating the healthcare system,
transporting to the appointments or identifying the right social supports are lifted from the shoulders of the families. Cherry Blossom PACE also provides home care in support of seniors who need help with activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing or grooming.

The team is experienced and passionate about serving older adults with needs. Many have years of experience supporting those with cognitive impairment such as dementia. They are excited and honored to have the privilege to support the Northern Virginia community. For more information, please call 571-789-0770 or visit the website at https://cherryblossompace.com/

The organization coordinates medical care on behalf of its participants and families.

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Dealing with anything plumbing related can sound intimidating, but there are minor repairs homeowners can easily do themselves. As long as you follow the instructions provided with the products you're using, you should be able to fix some common issues – and save a lot of money. Just remember, before tackling anything: Turn off the water to that area first.

Here are five common plumbing items you should be able to tackle on your own.

1. Swapping out a showerhead

   If your showerhead is malfunctioning, or you just want an upgrade, this is a simple fix. A necessary product for this task – or to fix a leaky faucet – is thread sealant. This will help ensure you won’t have future leaks. Thread sealant tape like Hercules Megatape is easy to use, and comes in several colors, widths, thicknesses and densities.

   Wrap thread sealant tape clockwise several revolutions around to fully cover the threads. Clockwise is the same direction you will be screwing on the showerhead, so applying the tape the same direction prevents the new showerhead from catching the end of the tape and unraveling it.

   You can find a short video on YouTube showing the process, called ‘How to Use Hercules Megatape Thread Sealant.’

2. Replacing a sink sprayer

   Kitchen sink sprayers frequently wear out. If you’re unsure what type of sprayer you have, bring it (or a picture) to the store to be sure you purchase the correct replacement. If your sink sprayer is older, you may be able to replace just the sprayer without also swapping out the hose. Newer models typically come in one piece, while older ones may have a detachable hose. If the hose is torn or damaged, you may need to replace that as well.

   Follow the instructions included with your new parts, and keep your thread sealant tape handy, as you will also need it to complete this project.

3. Fixing a running toilet

   Contrary to what you

   Plumbing predicaments

   Five common problems you can handle on your own

   BY BRANDPOINT

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   Liquid drain cleaner is a quick fix for any clogged drain, but certain chemical cleaners can damage some pipes if used incorrectly.

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   You CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MANY FRIENDS.
may think, jiggling the handle will not fix your running toilet. If your toilet is running, it’s probably caused by a faulty float valve or stop valve (also called a float cup or float switch). That large bulb floating in the toilet tank prevents the continuous flow of fresh water into your toilet once the tank is filled, but if the valve is old and no longer prevents water from getting through, the tank will keep filling - hence the constant running, which is annoying and wastes water.

The best approach is to replace the entire toilet tank float valve assembly, which you can purchase at your local hardware or home improvement store. These come with complete instructions, and there’s no need to be nervous about using your hands in the tank, as the water there is clean.

4. Repairing a toilet flange
The toilet flange helps secure your toilet to the floor. If yours is damaged, you may see leaking near the toilet base or water pooling on the floor. You might also notice unpleasant smells, or your toilet could shift or rock (the entire toilet, not the seat).

The Oatey Fix-it Repair Ring repairs broken, cracked or worn-out toilet mounting flanges, so you won’t have to replace the entire flange. The Fix-It Repair Ring is compatible with all flange and toilet installations as well as flooring types (including concrete) and has 10 mounting holes and four slotted mounting tabs for a range of installation options.

Learn more about how to install the Fix-It Repair Ring by watching the YouTube video, “How to Repair a Broken Toilet Flange.”

5. Unclogging drains
Before calling a plumber, try a plunger or snake. The quick fix for any clogged drain is a liquid drain cleaner, but certain chemical cleaners can damage some pipes if used incorrectly. However, some cleaners are beneficial if used properly. Make sure to choose the right one for the type of drain you’re trying to clean. For kitchen blockages, use a drain cleaner that removes fat and grease. For bathrooms, choose one formulated for soap scum and hair. Proactively using baking soda and vinegar can help prevent drains from clogging.

With these tips, you can safely tackle some simple plumbing repairs.

HOME OF THE WEEK

Delightful Victorian Townhouse

Known as one of the “Four Sisters,” this townhome is located on an idyllic street in the heart of Old Town. Built in 1900, this charming home has been completely updated and is move-in ready. The open concept main level welcomes you with pine flooring, a gas fireplace, chef’s kitchen and a dining room with a wall of windows overlooking the garden. The upper levels boast two bedrooms, two remodeled full baths, a library and a family room with a wood-burning fireplace. Laundry is conveniently located on the second floor. Take in the beautiful neighborhood views from the third-floor office nook, featuring a built-in bookcase and desk. The finished lower level offers a recreation room with an exposed brick wall, wood-burning fireplace, full bath, and French doors providing direct access to the back patio. An end unit row house, this abode is flooded with natural sunlight and offers versatile living spaces, classic charm and modern updates. Located just steps from the Mount Vernon Trail, the Potomac River, shops and restaurants on King Street, plus easy access to National Airport, Metro, Amazon HQ2 and major commuter routes.

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Alexandria 22314

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Old Town

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Bathrooms: 2 full & 1 half
Year built: 1900

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Our View ———

Change at the helm of ACPS

The news of Gregory Hutchings, Ed.D.’s resignation as Alexandria City Public Schools superintendent blew through Alexandria last Friday like a summer derecho. Hutchings’ resignation was not surprising, yet when something seemingly inevitable happens, the particular timing is still a shock.

When Hutchings was hired, there was great fanfare about a native son coming home, as Hutchings is a 1995 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, now known as Alexandria City High School. Many residents expressed hope that, given his ties to the city, his tenure here would be lengthy and successful.

However, from the start Hutchings, who is now 45, made it clear that he had greater ambitions than simply leading ACPS. In a September 2020 interview in the Alexandria Times, in which he defended himself from criticism by former ACPS employees about his management, Hutchings expanded on his future plans.

“I have a goal of being the U.S. Secretary of Education, but I can tell you that Alexandria’s not the stepping-stone to get there. ...” Hutchings said.

There has been rampant speculation as to whether Hutchings’ departure was wholly his own choice, given that he departs with a separation agreement that includes a non-disparagement clause. We think that’s mostly irrelevant to the larger point that this separation, at this point in time, is best for both parties.

We agree it was time for a change at the helm of ACPS. While Hutchings did make some notable positive contributions to the district – and during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic no less – we sadly do not view his tenure here as a success for three primary reasons.

First, he derailed the significant progress in improving ACPS processes that had been set in motion before his hiring. During 2017 and 2018, a joint city-schools task force was formed that was charged with improving processes and coordination between ACPS and the city. Hutchings initiated a restructuring in 2020 that resulted in the departure of key personnel who were making steady, behind-the-scenes progress in implementing the decidedly unglamorous, needed changes.

Second, under Hutchings’ leadership, ACPS lagged behind other Virginia school districts and neighboring Fairfax and Arlington in returning Alexandria students to the classroom after the COVID-19 vaccine became available during the 2020-21 school year. Hutchings then criticized parents who hired tutors and created learning pods for their children – because not everyone could afford to – while sending his own child to a private high school that continued in-person learning.

Third, Hutchings often seemed more interested in slogans than substance. While he spoke widely about equity, Black and Hispanic students suffered the most academically during prolonged virtual learning. While he wrote about the need to “abolish policing practices in schools” in an April 2022 EducationWeek article promoting his new book, his own school district was rife with violence this entire past school year and Hutchings himself asked for police officers to remain in Alexandria schools.

If Hutchings’ tenure at the helm of ACPS was disappointing, it’s nothing new, as his three predecessors as permanent superintendent also had less than stellar track records. One left after being arrested for a DUI, one was widely criticized for spending lavishly on consult-

SEE OUR VIEW | 28

Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson

Photo of the Week

A June sunrise at the site of the former GenOn power plant by the Potomac River.

Your Views ———

The leader ACPS needs next

To the editor:

The resignation of Alexandria City Public Schools superintendent Gregory Hutchings, Ed.D. comes at an inflection point for our public school community. Enrollment has slipped by more than 2% in the past two years in the wake of pandemic-driven disruption.

With inconsistent and unfocused leadership, we have faced mounting challenges of overdue investment in school infrastructure, threats to the physical and mental wellbeing of our students and a teacher workforce stretched thin. These challenges are not unique to Alexandria – nearly half of public schools nationally currently report unfilled full-time or part-time teaching vacancies – but we have been given the chance to address them head on with the selection of a new leader for our school division.

A new superintendent must start with the quiet work of building a system we can rely on. We need greater transparency on school quality measures that matter to families, and strategies to ensure every student receives the academic and social-emotional support to ensure success. We need immediate incentives to attract a talented teacher workforce who bring diverse perspectives that match our student body. And we need an overhaul of our infrastructure to improve air quality in classrooms and address long overdue repairs to crumbling facilities.

But above all, we need leadership that prioritizes trust-building with the community – including parents, educators, businesses, community organizations and higher education institutions. It will require collaboration and deep partnership to ensure every student receives the personalized learning experiences to succeed on whatever career and learning path they follow through ACPS and beyond.

As national education policy leaders with students at ACPS, we are familiar with research, which is abundantly clear, about what is needed for success: there is a strong correlation between the strength of district leadership and the achievement of the district. This is a moment to focus on leadership that builds bridges with students, our educators and the community at large.

Our school division works for our whole community – a community defined and strengthened by its rich diversity in our neighborhoods and school population alike – and we are counting on the School Board to make a choice that brings us closer to the goal of high-quality student outcomes for all.

-Lillian Pace, Ryan Reyna, Jesse O’Connell, Alexandria
Your Views

It's not racist to disagree

To the editor:

Bravo to the Alexandria Times on fighting back against the "you're racist if ..." rhetoric. Exactly right! People are not racist if they disagree with high rise buildings in their backyards. Thank you for speaking up in your May 19 editorial, “Destroying Alexandria’s historic character one decision at a time.”

I hope that sentiments such as those begin to take hold more and more and we can finally have discussions without so much fear. Thank you.

-Page McGill
Alexandria

Summer fun, not road danger

To the editor:

Each year at this time, temperatures climb in the DMV and so does the rate of automobile accidents. Nationally, both reach their peak in August. While many of us are ready for the warmer weather, none of us want more accidents, especially ones ending in death or serious injury.

We know that crashes have real consequences. Twenty-one people in Alexandria lost their lives in traffic accidents during 2020, adding to more than 140 deaths over the last five years recently studied by the City.

One of the most powerful tools in preventing accidents is you!

Yes, we are definitely talking about putting down the cellphone and never drinking and driving, but it's more than that. When we are out on the roads, why not keep an eye out for each other?

Alexandria prides itself on being a community where people care about one another. But walking, riding or driving around you see a lot of aggression, impatience and frankly, recklessness. We all get frustrated and impatient – whether we are sitting at a red light, standing on the corner waiting for the ‘walk’ signal or looking for parking – but let’s remember to keep each other safe while in a hurry.

Here are five quick reminders to help keep everyone safe as we move around this summer.

1) Pedestrians and cyclists are not protected by thousands of pounds of metal and plastic. Yield to pedestrians and keep an eye out for darting kids. Slow down in that bad intersection and report known areas of concern via 3-1-1 and AFFS’s Near Miss/Dangerous Location Survey App at alxfss.org.

2) Schools are still hubs of activity, even in the summer. Classes might be out of session, but students, seniors and community members still use our schools throughout the summer so remember to follow school speed limit signs, even in June through August.

3) Feeling the pinch of these insane gas prices? Slowing down might be part of the solution. This is doubly true when driving more than 50 miles per hour.

4) Make yourself seen at intersections and crosswalks – this goes for everyone. In Alexandria, nearly 60% of crashes resulting in death or serious injury occur at intersections. We all know the ones where it’s hard to see – such as along Commonwealth, Trinity crossing Seminary and South Henry off Duke – so slow down, look out and be seen.

5) When opening car doors, be sure and look for cyclists and pedestrians. With the increase in on-street and parklet dining, more people might be closer to your door than in the past. Likewise, cyclists can move fast, and ‘dooring’ could have legal consequences.

Together, we can keep alert, keep safe and all get there together.

-James Lewis, chair
Alexandria Traffic and Parking Board; Mike Doyle, founding board member, Alexandria Families for Safer Streets

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.

Benefits of power plant remediation

To the editor:

As the metropolitan population grows and the environment and urban areas face sustainability issues, innovative solutions such as the 2017 Old Town North Small Area Plan to deal with the abandoned GenOn power plant may help solve these problems. This 18.8-acre coal-powered plant was closed in 2012 after its importance in electricity production declined and activists tired of its pollution waged a campaign in the 2000s to close it.

Redevelopment of the coal-powered power plant and the remediation of other vacant industrial properties could be the optimal form of urban development, since they are often located in high-demand locations. It lessens pollution while transforming vacant land into an area with jobs and residences without displacing existing residents.

In the early 1900s, factories were located near city centers along water to maintain a large labor force and efficient transportation. The abandoned power plant is adjacent to the waterfront, a highly attractive destination for residents and commercial businesses. The plan consists of six development blocks that will expand along Commonwealth, Trinity crossing Seminary and South Henry off Duke – so slow down, look out and be seen.

This industrial-era buildings are located with the potential to make high appeal land into areas with more residential and economic opportunities. Not one resident will be displaced. This process could be implemented in other urban and suburban areas with an industrial past, and potentially become the future of urban redevelopment if done correctly.

-Gabriel Cohen
student, Alexandria City High School
Juneteenth: A celebration 154 years in the making

Soon after the Civil War started, people who escaped slavery came to Alexandria to assert their freedom. Enslaved people located elsewhere within the United States had to wait longer for that experience. One of those locations was Galveston, Texas, which waited until June 19, 1865, for Union Gen. Gordon Granger to declare that “...rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer.”

The formerly enslaved people of Galveston started a tradition of celebrating their freedom on Juneteenth – June + 19th. That tradition became a national federal holiday last year, 154 years after the residents of Galveston first celebrated the occasion.

While Alexandrians have celebrated the freedom of the formerly enslaved people in our city since the end of the Civil War, the celebration’s date has varied. Starting in the 1880s, Alexandrians organized the celebration commemorating the end of slavery. Some early keynote speakers included Frederick Douglass and John Mercer Langston, the first African American to represent Virginia in the House of Representatives.

The writings of Alexandria newspaper publisher Magnus Robinson show us that in 1891, the Emancipation Celebration took place on January 1, marking the day that the Emancipation Proclamation took effect. Later celebrations took place on September 24 – probably due to the announcement of the Emancipation Proclamation on Sep. 22, 1862 – such as in 1894, when Frederick Douglass spoke at the Emancipation Celebration.

In the last 40 years, Alexandrians have followed the lead of Galveston in celebrating the end of slavery on Juneteenth. Texas declared the date a state holiday in 1980, and for almost 30 years, the Alexandria Black History Museum has celebrated the day with festivals, film screenings, performances and other activities.

In 2020, Virginia declared Juneteenth a permanent state holiday. In 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, establishing Juneteenth as a national holiday. This year, Alexandria continues its tradition of celebrating the abolishment of slavery with children’s activities, a concert by the Washington Revels at Market Square on June 19, and the Grand Opening of the Freedom House Museum on June 20.


OUT OF THE ATTIC

Ours is provided by The Office of Historic Alexandria.

OUR VIEW FROM | 26

The one exception to this unfortunate track record was interim Superintendent Lois Berlin, who served from August 2017 to June 2018. She displayed three key traits – accountability, empathy and humility – that we hope the search committee emphasizes in its hiring of a new superintendent.

-When an SRO accidentally discharged his gun at George Washington Middle School, Berlin went to the site, stood out front and engaged with the media and parents about the incident.

-When the Alexandria Times ran a series of articles leading up to the 60th anniversary of the integration of Alexandria schools, Berlin didn’t circle the wagons to deflect criticism, but instead took responsibility for the system. She said the late 1950s were “… certainly a dark time in the history of Alexandria schools and the nation. … Today we would welcome James Lomax, one of the first children to integrate city schools] with open arms and provide every opportunity for him and his classmates to receive all of the resources we can provide to help him be successful in academics and in life.”

-Berlin was also an active participant in the city-schools task force and its mundane but important work.

After the tumult of the past several years, ACPS is in for more change. We fervently hope that those tasked with the upcoming transition emphasize quiet competence over all else.

Weekly Poll

Last Week

Did you attend a celebration last weekend?

53% No.
26% I celebrated by spending time outdoors.
13% Yes, I attended a graduation or graduation party.
5% I attended more than one celebration.
3% Yes, I attended a Queen Elizabeth II celebration.

This Week

What do you think of the announcement that ACPS Superintendent Gregory Hutchings, Ed.D is leaving?

A) I’m sorry to see him go.
B) His departure is overdue.
C) I have mixed feelings.
D) I’m not sure.
Weekly Words

STUFF THE BIRD by Doug Burnikel and Zhouqin Burnikel, edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS
1 "Doggone it!" (First one + last six)
5 Sailor's "Stop!"
10 ___ sci (study of govt.)
14 Godsends
19 Fencing sword
20 Apple product giant
21 Actor Leslie ___ Jr.
22 "... never mind, then"
23 Reliable source of income
(Note this answer's first two + last three letters)
25 One is easy to buy
(First three + last two)
29 Goes downhill
30 Patch things up?
31 "The Moon Lady" author
32 Lends a hand
33 It has a screamo subgenre
35 Gobbled up
36 Just released
37 "La Vie en Rose" Oscar winner (First two + last five)
43 Hardly wordy
47 Low-pH compounds
49 Say a bad word
50 Tahoe and Santa Fe, e.g.
51 Field trip vehicle
52 "Buzz off!"
56 Stat for David Ortiz
57 Uno + due

DOWN
1 Robin's home
2 As many as
3 Adolescent behind the wheel
4 Clownfish's home
5 "The Moon Lady" author
6 Promises
7 Molecule part
8 Potholes' spots
9 Chastising sound
10 ___ stick (bouncing toy)
11 What nitrogen lacks
12 Less taut
13 "That's hilarious!"
14 "Best of" collections, often
15 Tolkien brute
16 Burden
17 Place for a stud
18 Kimchi-jjigae or goulash, e.g.
24 Velociraptors and others, briefly
26 Rhinitis doc
29 Howling animal
32 Lends a hand
34 Sch. near Harvard
36 Just released
37 Poles on boats
38 Luxury Honda
39 Board game with Dr. Orchid
40 Deposes
41 Get defeated
42 Tetherball paths
44 "Boston Legal" episode, now
45 Buffalo hockey pro
46 Great Lake with 2,000+ shipwrecks
51 Splits in two
53 One pushup, e.g.
54 Amazonian berry
55 Picture with two views, often
58 Irritates
59 Capture
60 At least 100, for a centenarian
61 Promotion basis
62 Divulge
63 Tugboat's signal
64 Robin's home
65 Board game with Dr. Orchid
66 Howling animal
67 Molecule part
68 Potholes' spots
69 Chastising sound
70 What nitrogen lacks
71 End of LSU's URL
72 Oolong, for one
73 Himalayan mountain
74 Tree for a totem pole
75 Food similar to a gordita
76 Marina, Rey
78 Curry may leave one on a shirt
80 Museum visitors' downloads
81 "Sorry to say..."
82 Chieng of "Crazy Rich Asians"
83 Place to sink a putt
84 Viewed
85 Mallorca, por ejemplo
86 Part of a foot
88 "Como ___ usted?"
89 Movie slogan
90 Kitchen insect
91 Garden for 96-Down
92 Drink like a puppy
93 Like resistance bands
94 "The X-Files" agent Scully
95 Next to "as"
96 "The Moon Lady" author
97 Envy, for one
99 Austin Powers' neckwear
101 Pop singer King
102 Signoff words in a letter
103 "So happy for you!"
104 Book with a legend
105 Young bloke
106 "Hulk" director Lee
107 Future OK-GYN's hurdle
108 Take the stage
109 Group in Dundee
110 Chalupa alternative
112 Warrior princess of TV
113 Origami and ikebana, e.g.
114 "The Moon Lady" author
115 Not out of contention
117 Winter Palace monarch, once
119 Avenger with lightning power
120 Drowned out (First two + last four)
121 Mostly poisonous tree
122 Closest peeps
123 Feed bag tidbit

DEATH NOTICES

RICHARD EARP (67), of Alexandria, May 30, 2022
BRIGID GORMAN (77), of Alexandria, June 9, 2022
CHRIS HIX (67), formerly of Alexandria, June 2, 2022
CARL LAWRENCE (92), of Alexandria, June 2, 2022
DAVID NAFF (83), of Alexandria, June 5, 2022
ANGELA RAISH (101), of Alexandria, June 3, 2022
BETH RICKS (69), of Alexandria, June 6, 2022
JUNE 16

LET FREEDOM SING! Presented by the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts and Classical Movements, this Juneteenth celebration will offer a new perspective through the combination of narration, storytelling, songs and lyrical dance to bring life to the new American holiday.

Time: 5 to 6 p.m.
Location: 711 Princess St.
Information: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/steps-towards-freedom-a-juneteenth-remembrance-tickets-170221901289

JUNETEENTH PARK & CEMETERY CLEAN-UP Join the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities for a clean-up event at the Frederick Douglass Memorial and Penny Hill Cemetery to honor Juneteenth. Wear red, black or green to represent the Pan African flag. RPCA will provide attendees with trash bags and grabber tools for the event.

Time: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Location: Douglass Memorial Cemetery 1367-1473 Wilkes St.
Information: https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=44489

JUNETEENTH JUBILEE, FEATURING CULTURE QUEEN Join Grammy-nominated performer Culture Queen at the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library for an interactive musical storytelling experience. The show is for all ages and will educate the community about the meaning behind Juneteenth. The event is cosponsored by the Alexandria Black History Museum and the Office of Historic Alexandria.

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.
Location: 5005 Duke St.
Information: https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=44454

THIRD SATURDAY: WATERFRONT DOCKETS This event features art demonstrations and environmental education for all. Enjoy live demonstrations by artists from the Torpedo Factory Art Center on the marina. Staff from the Jerome “Buddy” Ford Nature Center will also be at the event to discuss environmental topics in Alexandria.

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.
Location: City Marina, Cameron St.
Information: https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=44451

ALEXANDRIA JAZZ FEST Enjoy the 44th annual Alexandria Jazz Festival, which is part of the Portside in Old Town Summer Festival. The free two-day event will include an array of live music, local craft beer from Port City Brewing Company and hands-on-art and history activities. Some of Alexandria’s poets will perform readings in between sets.

Time: 6 to 9 p.m.
Location: 1 Prince St.
Information: https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=43325

PORTSIDE IN OLD TOWN SUMMER FESTIVAL Kick off summer with the return of the Portside in Old Town Summer Festival. The free festival features an array of live music, local craft beer from Port City Brewing Company and fun for the whole family on the Alexandria waterfront.

Time: 6 to 9 p.m.
Location: 1A Prince St.
Information: https://visitalexandria.com/events/portside-festival/

JUNE 18

POTOMAC WINDOW CLEANING Residential window cleaning inside and out. Serving the local area for 35 years. Family owned and operated. (703) 356-4459. Licensed, Bonded, Insured. The Montgomery family thanks you for your interest.

MOVERS CONTINENTAL MOVERS Local long distance Free boxes $100 x 3 men travel time applied

JUNETEENTH BOARD OF EQUALIZATION HEARINGS Pursuant to Section 58.1-3378 of the Code of Virginia, the Board of Equalization and Assessment Review for the City of Alexandria will convene on the following days to hear complaints of inequalities wherein the property owners allege a lack of equity or uniformity in assessment, errors in fact in such real estate assessments, or that the real property assessment is not assessed at fair market value. Upon hearing such complaints, the Board is legally authorized to INCREASE, DECREASE, OR AFFIRM such real estate assessments.

Participants can attend via Zoom Webinar or in person in Room 3008, City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA. Virtual meeting links (Zoom) and notification of any meeting cancellations will be posted at alexandriava.gov/Calendar. The 2022 hearing dates currently scheduled are:

July 11th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
July 12th – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
July 13th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
July 18th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
July 19th – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
July 20th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
July 25th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
July 26th – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
July 27th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
August 1st – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
August 2nd – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

August 3rd – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
August 8th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
August 9th – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
August 10th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
August 15th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
August 16th – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
August 17th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
August 23rd – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
August 24th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
August 29th – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
August 30th – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
August 31st – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The deadline for filing an appeal was June 1, 2022, however, this appeal deadline is not applicable to appeals of assessments for real estate that was newly constructed pursuant to Virginia Code 59.1-3292.

Dockets for each hearing may be obtained by contacting the Office of Real Estate Assessments, 301 King Street, City Hall Room 2600,

Classifieds
Obituary

Erin Lindsey (Waldron) Turner

Born at Alexandria Hospital on Sunday, Aug 6, 1978 at 11:26 a.m.

Erin attended George Mason Elementary School, George Washington Middle School, and graduated from T.C. Williams High School in 1996. She received her associate’s degree from Northern Virginia Community College and transferred to Virginia Commonwealth University.

After attending VCU, she went on to become a teacher’s assistant for 18 years in the Alexandria City Public School System at John Adams Elementary School.

In 1988, Erin was diagnosed with CML Leukemia and underwent a bone marrow transplant in 1989. She suffered from multiple illnesses following her transplant. Over the next 32 years, she endured a hysterectomy, had her gallbladder removed, thyroid cancer, and finally had to have her entire colon removed due to cancerous tumors.

Erin is survived by her husband Kevin Turner, her mom and dad Martha and William Waldron, her brother John Waldron, and her niece Addison Waldron.

Erin had many talents and hobbies. She enjoyed baking and cooking, all kinds of craft making such as making jewelry and Christmas ornaments, and crocheting and cross stitching. She would put her whole self into everything that she undertook, most of which seemed bigger than her, but that would not deter her.

One of the best and strongest attributes was her loving and beautiful heart! It was the one and almost only thing that she did not lose due to the illness, even on her worst health days.

Erin passed away peacefully at her parents’ home on the night of June 7 around 9:45 p.m. She was sitting in one of her favorite chairs in her room. She had found peace and comfort in the knowledge that she was surrounded by loved ones.

If you feel inclined to give, in lieu of flowers you can make a monetary donation to the Leukemia Lymphoma Society in Memory of Erin L. Turner.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, HELD AT CITY HALL, 301 KING STREET, COUNCIL CHAMBER AND ON ZOOM WEBINAR ON SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022 AT 9:30 A.M., OR AS SOON AS MAY BE HEARD ON THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED ITEMS.

PUBLIC HEARING, Second Reading and Final Passage of an Ordinance to amend and reorganize Section 5-602(A) (COORDINATED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS CREATED, CONSISTENCY WITH MASTER PLAN, REQUIRED APPROVALS) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2022-00002 (Implementation Ordinance for Text Amendment No. 2022-00002 associated with Eisenhower East Block 23 approved by City Council on May 14, 2022).

PUBLIC HEARING, Second Reading and Final Passage of an Ordinance to amend and reorganize Chapter 8 (Transportation and Environmental Services) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

PUBLIC HEARING, Second Reading and Final Passage of an Ordinance to amend an ordnance authorizing and empowering the Issuance, Sale and Delivery of General Obligation Bonds to Finance City and Schools Capital Projects and to Refund Certain Outstanding Bonds of the City. [ROLL-CALL VOTE].

PUBLIC HEARING, Second Reading and Final Passage of an Ordinance to Make Appropriations for the Support of the City Government for Fiscal Year 2023. [ROLL-CALL VOTE].

PUBLIC HEARING, Second Reading and Final Passage of an Ordinance to vacate two alleys located in the 700 block of North West Street (VAC No. 2020-00004) (Implementation Ordinance for Vacation No. 2020-00004 associated with Braddock West approved by City Council on May 15, 2021).

PUBLIC HEARING, Second Reading and Final Passage of an Ordinance to Make Supplemental Appropriations for the Support of the City Government for Fiscal Year 2022. [ROLL-CALLVOTE].

PUBLIC HEARING and Consideration of a License Extension, Amendment No. 5, between the City of Alexandria and the Tall Ship Providence Foundation for the Docking of the Tall Ship Providence in the City Marina.

PUBLIC HEARING and Consideration of a License Agreement Between the City and Jeffrey L. Yates, TR for Use of Public Right of Way Adjacent to 1050 North Fayette Street.

PUBLIC HEARING and Consideration of a Five-Year License Agreement Between the City of Alexandria, Virginia and Harbor Link Virginia, LLC. to install conduits and dark fiber in the City’s rights-of-ways but not provide telecommunications service or cable service in the City.

PUBLIC HEARING and Consideration of an Approval of a Form Lease for Renewing and Issuing Leases to Artists and Arts Organizations through September 30, 2027 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center located at 105 N. Union Street.

PUBLIC HEARING and Consideration of extension of License Agreement between the City of Alexandria and St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes School for the use of the recreational facilities located at Ft. Ward Park.

PUBLIC HEARING and Consideration of a License Agreement Between the City and Sheikh Mohammad Arshad to Use City-owned Property at 206 Strand Street.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL (LIMITED COPIES AVAILABLE). IF THE MAYOR FINDS AND DECLARES THAT WEATHER OR OTHER CONDITIONS ARE SUCH THAT IT IS HAZARDOUS FOR MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE MEETING, THIS MEETING WILL BE CONTINUED TO THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

PUBLIC NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to install new antennas at a centerline height of 116 feet on a 120-foot building with an overall building height of 126 feet at the approx. vicinity of 250 S. Whiting St, Alexandria, VA 22304. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, McKayla Grasham, m.grasham@trileaf.com, 8600 Trileaf Road, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21286,410-853-7128

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