



PHOTO/DENISE DUNBAR

Debris and pilings extend into the Potomac River at the former industrial site on Oronoco Bay that is the focal point of a lawsuit Potomac River Keepers Network has brought against the City of Alexandria.

## Potomac Riverkeepers propose settlement

**Nonprofit sued city last month over pollution in Potomac River**

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

The Potomac Riverkeepers Network, an environmental nonprofit organization that aims to protect the Potomac River, sent the City of Alexandria a settlement proposal last week after filing a lawsuit last month, PRKN member Dean Naujoks said.

According to PRKN, the settlement proposal is the most recent chapter in a continued effort to reach an agreement with the city despite years of conflict over pollution flowing from Alexandria into the Potomac River.

“We’re still willing to work with them,” Naujoks told the Times in an interview. “We

didn’t want it to come to this.”

The proposal comes after PRKN filed a lawsuit in federal court against the city for allegedly allowing toxic coal tar and creosote wastes to contaminate the Potomac River since at least 1975.

According to the lawsuit, the river waste comes from a stormwater outfall subject to a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Permit that bans non-stormwater discharges from the storm sewer system. The group claims that through these discharges the city is actively violating the permit, the Clean Water Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

“Many of these pollutants are classified as probable hu-

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## Parents raise safety concerns

**School Board meeting dominated by gun violence worries**

BY KASSIDY MCDONALD

Numerous ACPS parents expressed their distress and concern about violence in Alexandria City Public Schools, and the potential for future gun violence, at a School Board meeting on June 16.

Parents outlined violence prevention policies that they believe the School Board should be enforcing, many of which centered around gun safety. The parents emphasized that local policy, not just national changes, can help keep Alexandria children safe,

and urged the School Board to not wait but instead take action for the upcoming 2022-23 school year.

Bridget Shea Westfall, a Moms Demand Action Volunteer and ACPS parent of two, said the School Board and their chapter should work together. She urged the School Board to make changes to the ACPS website to add resources for parents and students about gun violence, making it easier for the community to access.

Westfall also advocated adding safe gun storage information on how to keep firearms away from children in homes where guns are owned on the website for

parents to access.

ACPS parent Alexandria Griffin, who has lived in the area for more than 20 years and is a volunteer with Alexandria’s chapter of Moms Demand Action, told the School Board that “these simple actions can truly save lives, and this proclamation is an important part of increasing the safety of all students and educators in Alexandria.”

ACPS parent Missy Estabrook, co-founder of Parents for Safe Alexandria Schools and the incoming President of the Alexandria PTA Council, also urged the School Board to

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COURTESY PHOTO

The School Board met on June 16 with much of the comment period involving conversations about safety in Alexandria’s public schools.

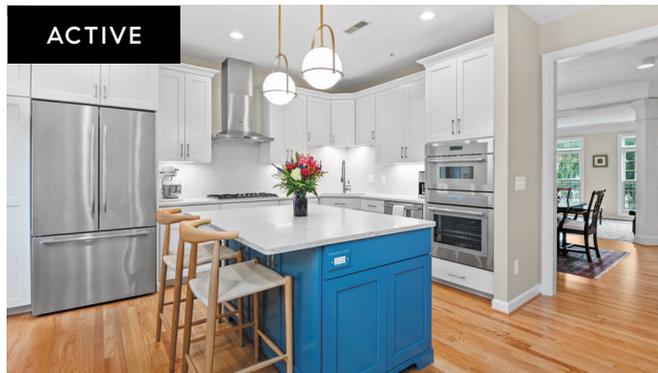
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## Alexandria's Mid-Year Market Update

Check out our latest listings to hit the Alexandria market! As we get further into the summer season, be sure to reach out to one of our Alexandria experts for a consultation on how to best approach this ever-changing market.



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## WEEKLY BRIEFING

## Don Beyer wins Democratic primary

In the contest to be the Democratic Party nominee for the 8th U.S. Congressional District on Tuesday, long-time Alexandria Rep. Donald S. Beyer, Jr. won the nomination over challenger Victoria I. Virasingham.

Beyer received 37,922 of the total votes, or 77.39%. Virasingham received 11,076 of the total votes, or 22.61%. Among Alexandria voters, Beyer received 9,479 votes (78.03%), and Virasingham received 2,669 votes (21.97%).

If he wins as anticipated in November, this would be Beyer's fifth term as a U.S. Representative from Virginia's 8th District, representing Arlington,



**DON  
BEYER**

ton, Alexandria, Falls Church, and parts of Fairfax County.

Beyer was previously the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia from 1990 to 1998, and was Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein under President Barack Obama, ac-

ording to his website.

His opponent Virasingham, a political newcomer, grew up in Arlington and is the daughter of immigrants. Virasingham was recruited to become an Arlington Democrats Precinct Captain and served as the Arlington Democrats Outreach Vice Chair, according to her website.

The Associated Press projected Beyer's win at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday night. The polls were open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., allowing any registered voter in the 8th District to cast their vote in the Democratic primary.

-kmcDonald@alextimes.com

## Man dies in suspected drowning

Police are investigating a drowning incident in which one man died, according to a news release. The man, 52-year-old Tewodros Teferi, was recovered from the water by a rescue team and was pronounced dead at the scene after unsuccessful resuscitation efforts by paramedics.

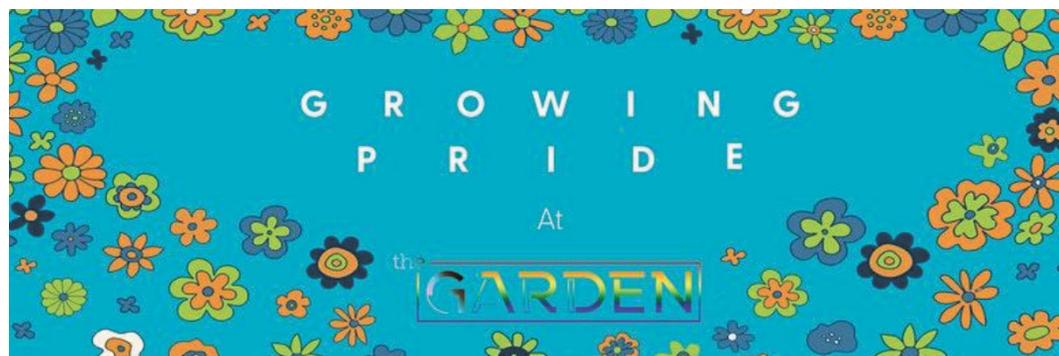
Police say an initial call was

made Monday afternoon in the 3900 block of Richmond Hwy for a man who had drowned in Four Mile Run stream.

Authorities say no foul play is suspected but are conducting a "thorough" investigation into the incident and ask members of the public to report any information they may have about the case.

The Alexandria Police Department is asking anyone who may have information related to this case to contact Detective Matthew Kramarik via phone at 703-746-6650, email at Matthew.Kramarik@alexandriava.gov, or the non-emergency line at 703-746-4444.

-ckane@alextimes.com



IMAGE/VISIT ALEXANDRIA

## Growing Pride at The Garden returns

Growing Pride at The Garden is back for its second year celebrating LGBTQ+ Pride on June 26. This family-friendly event is Alexandria's largest Pride celebration. It will feature 15 local LGBTQ+ makers and allies, local food trucks, live music and crafting

at The Garden ALX.

Enjoy local food trucks, including snow cones from Anita's Frozen Cotton Candy, live music, and kids crafting available throughout the event provided by UpCycle. The event will be both inside the event space, the state-of-the-

art workshop and outside on the patio. Sportrock will be offering two free climbs for all Growing Pride attendees. Event organized by Athena and a portion of all proceeds will be donated to Safe Space NOVA.

-ddunbar@alextimes.com

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## WEEKLY BRIEFING


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PHOTO/ALLISON SILBERBERG

Del. Delores McQuinn (VA-70) delivers the keynote address at Shiloh Baptist Worship Center on Monday during the city's Juneteenth celebration.

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2-year-old Maverick is ready to play. Fetch, tug, or just a good tennis ball - Maverick loves it all. But don't think this 60-pound hound mix is just about the toys. He loves a good walk and an even better snuggle with his human friends; he just asks that you share the popcorn on movie night.

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## Juneteenth celebrations held

Various activities were held in Alexandria in honor of the first federal holiday observance of Juneteenth. Juneteenth, short for June Nineteenth, marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people were freed.

The City of Alexandria held the grand opening of the Freedom House Museum at the Shiloh Baptist Worship Center on Monday as part of the city's Juneteenth events.

The grand opening marked the official debut of this National Historic Landmark in Alexandria and its notable story and transition. Virginia State Delegate Delores McQuinn (VA-70), a leader for the Commonwealth's African American initiatives, provided the keynote address. The program also featured remarks by Mayor Justin Wilson, Alexandria Black History Museum Director Audrey Davis, Former Alexandria City Manager Mark Jinks, Northern Virginia Urban League Board

Chair Letty Maxwell and City Poet Laureate Zeina Azzam.

A recitation of names on the earliest list of men, women, and children trafficked from Alexandria to New Orleans associated with 1315 Duke St. ended the event.

In addition, City Councilor John Taylor Chapman held a special Manumission Tour to mark the historic day. Tour stops included the Barrett library, Lloyd House, Gadsby's Tavern and others.

-ckane@alextimes.com

## West End larceny reported

Police responded to a reported larceny on Sunday afternoon near N. Overlook and S. Overlook Drive, according

to a release. No injuries or weapons were reported. The Alexandria Police Department did not respond to a request

for more information on the larceny in time for the Times print deadline.

-ckane@alextimes.com

## ARHA headquarters named for Miller

The Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority will name its headquarters after the late Melvin Miller, a prominent affordable housing advocate in Alexandria. Miller, who died in 2015, was chair of the agency's board of

commissioners from 1970 to 1977 and from 2001 to 2012. He was also a lawyer with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Miller was instrumental in the agency adopting a required "one-for-one" replacement

when public housing units are demolished," according to a release.

A formal renaming ceremony for the 401 Wythe St. building is tentatively scheduled for September.

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PHOTO/MARTY DEVINE

Community Lodgings board members and staff join Councilor John Chapman for a Juneteenth version of his Manumission Tour.

## COVID-19 vaccine available to young children

The Alexandria Health Department has announced that they, along with other providers, will now offer COVID-19 vaccinations to children under five years old, according to a release.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has approved both the PPfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines for the age group of six months to five years. The CDC accepted the recommendation of its Advisory Committee on Immunization

Practices, which met on June 17 and 18 to review administration and safety data for the vaccine.

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine consists of three doses, with three weeks between the first and second dose and eight weeks between the second and third dose. The Moderna vaccine is for ages six months to five years and is two doses separated by four weeks, according to the release.

Alexandria has multiple

vaccination locations for parents and guardians to choose from. Locations include AHD vaccine clinics, pharmacies for ages three and up and pediatricians' offices. AHD is planning to host vaccine events for this age group at daycares, doctor's offices and throughout the city.

Parents and guardians can visit [alexandriava.gov/Vaccines](http://alexandriava.gov/Vaccines) to find available appointments for their children.

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

## Pride Month lecture at Lyceum

Historic Alexandria will host a Pride Month lecture on June 30 at the Lyceum. Lisa Crooms-Robinson, a Professor of Law at Howard University

School of Law and an expert on race, gender and human rights, will speak about the 1954 MacDowell Colony fellows which included the Colony's

first two Black residents: Pauli Murray and James Baldwin.

The lecture will begin at 7:00 pm; tickets are \$10.

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include gun violence prevention policies as well as sharing secure safety practices on the ACPS website.

Estabrook, the mother of 10th and seventh grade boys, wants the School Board to include gun violence prevention policy and safety information in back-to-school packets for the next school year.

“I urge ACPS to provide information on safe gun storage directly to families at the start of each school year in a widely accessible, multi-lingual format, as well as to add gun violence prevention information and resources to the ACPS website,” said Estabrook.

In addition to the local changes, Griffin suggested the School Board join Alex-

**“ I urge ACPS to provide information on safe gun storage directly to families at the start of each school year in a widely accessible, multi-lingual format, as well as to add gun violence prevention information and resources to the ACPS website.”**

– Missy Estabrook, ACPS parent



**DEBORAH ASH**

andria’s Moms Demand Action chapter to urge Congress to pass legislation that would require background checks on all sales, as well as red flag laws and to ban the sale of military style assault weapons.

Griffin spoke of statistics from Everytown for gun safety. “According to ET Research, between 2009-2020 the 10 mass shooting incidents with the most casualties all involved the use of a firearm equipped with a high-capacity magazine,

an assault weapon, or both,” said Griffin.

Students are also calling for the School Board to proactively address gun violence this year. Emily Milton, a student representative to the School Board last year who will be serving again this upcoming school year, made it clear this issue needs to be addressed.

“I personally support statements and suggestions made regarding gun violence prevention and hope that the Board can make it a top priority in the 2022 to 2023 school year,” Milton said.

The meeting was held just

six days after ACPS Superintendent Gregory Hutchings, Ed.D. announced his resignation effective Aug. 31, and three days following a joint meeting of City Council and the School Board, in which a plan to address school violence was discussed. Hutchings did not attend either the June 13 or June 16 meetings.

Debbie Ash, an ACPS grandparent and former candidate for School Board, said she is displeased with Hutchings’ resignation and of the Board’s treatment of parents.

Ash made a comment about Hutchings removing his own child from the ACPS

school system and placing them in a private school during COVID-19 lockdowns and virtual learning.

Board Chair Meagan Alderton, whose children also attend private school, stopped Ash mid-sentence.

“I am going to stop you right there. We do not talk about other people’s children in public comment,” Alderton said.

In written comments to the School Board, community member Richard Merritt reminded members of a Resolution on Gun Safety that was adopted by the Public Health Advisory Commission at its meeting on Feb. 17, 2022.

The resolution was made by the Public Health Advisory Commission of Alexandria in response to a press release by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that stated car accidents were

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## SCHOOL BOARD FROM | 8

no longer the leading cause of death for children – firearm injuries are.

The resolution addresses possible strategies created by the Public Health Advisory Commission to combat gun violence. Some of the suggestions include distributing gun locks to all interested gun owners, encouraging health providers to inquire of patients whether guns in the home are kept safe and to sponsor a “Proud to be Gun-free” campaign where businesses in the city encourage gun owners to leave their guns at home.

The purpose of the resolution is to encourage the city and School Board to work together “in order to avoid circumstances of death, injury and family or community trauma.”

Allyson McKowen and her son, a Minnie Howard stu-

**“ Students in ACPS have been bullied, harassed, assaulted, raped, shot, stabbed and killed this year on school grounds and/or during school hours, when parents and families are supposed to be able to trust that they are safe.”**

– Allyson McKowen,  
ACPS parent

dent, also made public comments about more generalized violence that occurs in the ACPS system and their personal experiences with it.

While they didn’t speak specifically about gun violence, the mother-son duo talked about how violence is generalized in the school system, and nothing is being done about it.

Recently, a 16-year-old ACPS student was arrested and charged with murder after allegedly killing Luis Mejia Hernandez at Bradlee Shopping Center, while back in October 2021 a multi-assailant

sexual assault allegedly took place on the Minnie Howard campus of Alexandria City High School.

The increase in school-wide violence is of utmost concern to ACPS parents, McKowen said. She told the School Board her son has been attacked more than once on school grounds.

“Students in ACPS have been bullied, harassed, assaulted, raped, shot, stabbed and killed this year on school grounds and/or during school hours, when parents and families are supposed to be able to trust that they are

safe,” said McKowen.

Her son also spoke in front of the School Board. He was not finished with his speech about school safety when the three minute time constraint ended, but as he walked away from the podium he said, “Please help us.”

While School Board members did not interact with parents during the public comments, the Board did discuss a scheduled agenda item involving

safety concerns with school visitor policies.

During the Equity Audit of School Board Policies, Board Vice Chair Jacinta Greene said ACPS should take a harder look at visitor policy and possibly become more specific in detailing who can visit the school because of the environment that they are in now.

“Yes we want to be welcoming, but yes we always want to air on the side of safety, particularly with things that have happened in this school year,” Greene said.

ACPS did not respond in time for the Times’ print deadline to a request for comment on the current status of the system’s gun violence safety plans for the 2022-23 school year.

–kmdonald@alextimes.com



**MEAGAN L.  
ALDERTON**



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PHOTO/DENISE DUNBAR

Remediation work is underway at the former industrial site at Oronoco Bay, where toxic coal tar and creosote wastes have allegedly been contaminating the Potomac River for almost 40 years.

**POTOMAC**

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man carcinogens,” PRKN Vice President for Programs and Litigation Phillip Musegaas said in a news release. “Documents prepared on behalf of the city acknowledge that concentrations detected near the outfall site are a potential danger to the marine and aquatic organisms and the animals that feed on them.”

PRKN is one of three regional waterkeeper branches, in addition to the Upper Potomac Riverkeeper and the Shenandoah Riverkeeper.

The nonprofit’s aim is to preserve the public’s right to clean water in those areas and to “enhance the safety of our drinking water, protect healthy river habitats, and enhance public use and enjoyment,” according to their website.

The site in question is a now-defunct gasification plant near Oronoco Street in Old Town on which the city relied for power from the late 1800s to mid-1900s. Formerly called Alexandria Town Gas, the site underwent redevelopment in the 1970s that included the implementation of a new stormwater pipe. The first re-

ports of that pipe scooping up toxic chemicals from the gas plant and releasing them into the Potomac River occurred in 1975.

Former Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald, who served on City Council between 2003 and 2007, recalled that the city’s combined sewer overflow project, RiverRenew, shaped much of his experience on the dais. The unfunded state mandate required the city to replace parts of its outdated sewer system to prevent sewage from flowing into the Potomac River during rainstorms.

According to the city’s website, the RiverRenew plan would eventually call for construction of an underground tunnel system designed “to bring combined sewage to the AlexRenew wastewater treatment facility, thus significantly reducing both the number and volume of combined sewer discharges into city waterways.”

Macdonald said the gas plant leak was one of the main issues that spurred him to run for council.

“I could see that the Oronoco gas plant leak had not been cleaned up properly yet,”

Macdonald said. “I tried to push the city to address both issues – obviously, though, that was not enough to get them to address these problems quickly enough. I should have done more, obviously.”

Following pressure from the Environmental Protection Agency to address the ongoing issues, the city entered into a voluntary remediation program with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality in 2000.

According to VDEQ’s website, the VRP program encourages hazardous substance cleanups “that might not otherwise take place.” The program offers an opportunity for site owners to address contamination issues on a voluntary basis with VDEQ’s supervision.

“By overseeing the process, DEQ is able to ensure that the cleanup achieves a satisfactory level of human health and environmental protection,” the website reads.

The process includes submitting a request for eligibility determination, enrollment, submittal requirement of a voluntary remediation re-

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PHOTO/DENISE DUNBAR

The contentious industrial site at Oronoco Bay as seen from the north.

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port, remediation goals, public participation and finally a certification of satisfactory completion of remediation.

However, Naujoks said the remediation efforts were to no avail, so PRKN first approached Alexandria about the issue in 2016 to enact more concrete solutions.

The city seemed amenable to the requests as long as the two parties could keep it private, Naujoks said, but there was little change and the small progress that did happen was “too slow, too limited, and has failed to stop the imminent and substantial danger.”

Over the years, Naujoks said the city has spent millions of dollars to address the issue, but the problem has persisted.

“We didn’t want to have to file a lawsuit and we were willing to work with them privately, but after a while it got to the point where we felt like

we had no other choice,” Naujoks told the Times.

In a statement originally sent to the Washington Post and separately sent to the Alexandria Times, the city said it was “surprised” by PRKN’s lawsuit.

“Alexandria has worked closely with both the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the PRKN on the City’s efforts to remediate the remnants of contamination that occurred at this site,” the statement reads.

Thomas Faha, VDEQ regional director for the North Regional Office, declined to comment on the lawsuit while litigation is ongoing – a standard practice for the agency – but reiterated that VDEQ and Alexandria are still involved in the volunteer remediation program.

According to Andrea Blackford, editorial communications manager for the City of Alexandria, the city “has im-



PHOTO/DENISE DUNBAR

Materials viewed from the south side of the Oronoco Bay remediation site looking north through a chain-link fence.

plemented the approved remedial measures in accordance with the approved schedules.”

Macdonald, meanwhile, said the lawsuit was “necessary” because the city has been ineffective in its minimal effort to mitigate pollution. He criticized the volunteer remediation program for its lack of tangible results and called for

more transparency between the City of Alexandria and residents who live here.

“Voluntary is clearly not adequate because the problem still exists. The city needs to provide more information to the public about what it is doing, has done and the success or failure to date ...” Macdonald said. “... I think we need

this lawsuit to make it clear to the city that more needs to be done to eliminate this toxic legacy of our turn of the last century waterfront.”

According to the city’s website, it installed floating booms to absorb contamination in 2000 and in 2018 it dredged polluted sediment and replaced it with clean sand.

But overall, Macdonald asserted that the issue of environmental preservation in general is often tossed by the wayside in the city and should be prioritized more.

“Unfortunately, the city’s approach has long been to focus much less on environmental preservation and more on what developers wish to see happen,” Macdonald said. “... I would have liked them to recognize that the waterfront and river are not just development, and that the Potomac is a valuable natural resource and open space.”

-oanderson@alextimes.com

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PHOTO/CATHERINE KANE

City Council heard familiar discussions at the public hearing on Saturday.

# City Council approves parking changes

**Measure designed to free on-street spaces for residents**

BY CATHERINE KANE

Saturday's public hearing featured City Council considering the familiar issues of parking, zoning and land use in Alexandria.

In response to Old Town residents' concerns that they are unable to find parking in front of their homes, City Council approved a measure that would allow the Department of Transportation & Environmental Services to adjust on-street parking rates on a day-by-day, hour-by-hour basis to mitigate the effects of peak visitor traffic.

The measure would also provide incentives for visitors to park in city parking garages, which according to city data are consistently underutilized. During weekends and special events, the city may raise on-street parking rates to up to \$5 per hour in certain areas while lowering the cost of parking garages to try to attract more drivers to off-street parking.

Council members discussed how the city can better advertise parking garages to

help visitors find the garages, which are commonly tucked under non-descript buildings.

T&ES Director Yon Lambert told Council that the department was looking into having signage at garage entrances that would indicate how many spaces are available.

Councilor John Chapman noted that "it's going to be a tough struggle" despite new ordinances to "make a dent" in residents being able to find easily accessible parking in front of their homes in Alexandria's Old and Historic District, which has experienced an explosion of redevelopment along the waterfront in recent years.

After lengthy debate, City Council also approved an encroachment of a public right-of-way by the Free Methodist Church to build a driveway on land that is currently owned by the city but was at one time church property. The driveway would serve as an access point to a larger expansion and renovation the church is anticipated to undergo.

A longtime neighbor of the church, Jack Sharkey, testified in strong opposition to the approval, saying the

driveway was "unnecessary" and would be a risk to pedestrian traffic related to nearby Polk Elementary School. Sharkey submitted a proposal to buy the plot of land from the city to conserve it in its current undeveloped, grassy condition.

In response to council's concerns about student safety, Free Methodist Pastor Doug Cross said that nearly all use of the proposed driveway would be on Saturdays and Sundays when the church is holding events and services and school is not in session.

Mayor Justin Wilson voiced concern about the overarching issue of the use of city land in general by private entities. Wilson said the city needed to have "some integrity" with its land and while he said he has "no qualms" with the church expanding, he could not support the permanent use of city property without "something to reflect that permanence."

The city and church eventually agreed to a six-month sunset date whereupon the church would apply for permanent use of the property and pay the city \$11,000 for the vacation of the parcel.

-ckane@alextimes.com

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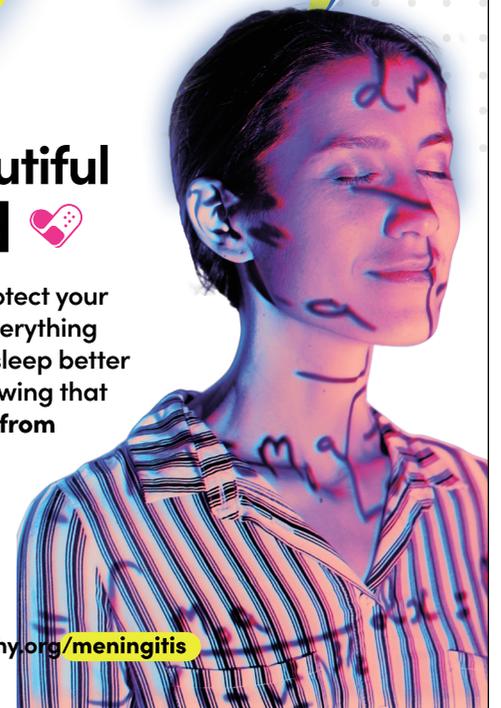
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## POETRY



FILE PHOTO

The custom of fashioning a wreath of laurel leaves to honor a poet or hero likely dates back to ancient Greece and Rome, and it continued through history.

## What is a Poet Laureate?

BY ZEINA AZZAM

This is the question that I hear most often when people learn of my new position as Poet Laureate of the City of Alexandria. I am sure that previous poets laureate encountered similar inquiries. So, what exactly is a poet laureate, and what does one actually do?

First, I am delighted to serve as the newest holder of this position, and the seventh since the program was reestablished in 2007. Before that, Alexandria had a “Poet in Residence,” Jean Elliot, from 1979 to 1999. I am honored that the Literary Task Force, set up and organized by Alexandria’s Office of the Arts, selected me. And I am incredibly grateful to the City of Alexandria for making the arts and literary pro-

grams and poetry in particular a priority. This illustrates the importance of creativity in our city and the profound role that the arts play in our lives.

The adjective “laureate,” according to the dictionary, refers to being “honored for outstanding achievement in an art or science” worthy of the laurel wreath. The custom of fashioning a wreath of laurel leaves to honor a poet or hero likely dates back to ancient Greece and Rome, and it continued through history.

We have seen such wreaths ornamenting statues from older eras. For example, in Washington, D.C., there is a statue of the Italian poet-philosopher Dante Alighieri with a laurel wreath. Today, the fragrant leaves of the bay laurel tree are used for cooking, herbal medicines and soap

making, among other things. One can imagine the lovely scented halo that a wreath of fresh laurel leaves bestowed on the honored person in ancient times.

This age-old “laureate” designation may seem anachronistic, but it does imbue the position with a seriousness and historic respect. We have poets laureate on many levels of U.S. society, starting with Poet Laureate of the United States, Joy Harjo, Poet Laureate of Virginia Luisa A. Igloria and poets laureate for numerous counties and cities such as Alexandria. There is also a National Youth Poet Laureate, a position held by Amanda Gorman, who wrote and read the inaugural poem at President Joe Biden’s inauguration in January 2021, as well the Poetry Foundation’s Young Peo-

ple’s Poet Laureate, currently Naomi Shihab Nye.

For the City of Alexandria, the aim of the poet laureate program is “to promote appreciation of poetry as an art form; to encourage creative writing and reading of all forms of literature; and to promote literacy through poetry.” During each year of the three-year term, the poet laureate is expected to write two to four poems that contribute to marking seminal events in Alexandria’s culture

and history; my first such activity was to read an original poem at the commemoration of one of Alexandria’s two documented lynchings, in honor of Joseph McCoy. The poet laureate also offers an original poem at Alexandria’s Birthday Celebration in July.

Other poet laureate responsibilities include participating in judging the “DASHing Words in Motion” poetry contest – writing a poem for it – and holding poetry workshops and readings to involve the community. Poets laureate are given leeway to pursue special projects, like working with students in Alexandria City Public Schools and libraries, offering programs in recreation and senior centers, reaching out to the diverse communities in Alexandria, celebrating National Poetry Month through various activities, attending and participating in events held by civic organizations in the city, writing a column for one of the local newspapers and judging poetry contests or initiating programs for particular communities, such as youth, women or the incarcerated.

Poets bring their own strengths and interests to the table. For fulfilling these duties, the poet laureate is given an honorarium of \$500 annually, with an additional \$500

available for organizing two workshops for the community.

A little about me: I have lived in northern Virginia since 1981 and in Alexandria for the last 11 years. I have always loved reading and writing poetry, and a number of



**ZEINA  
AZZAM**

my poems are published in literary journals and anthologies as well as in a poetry chapbook. My family is Palestinian; my parents were refugees who fled Palestine in 1948 and later settled in Syria, then Lebanon, then

the United States, where we immigrated when I was 10.

So, my background, and especially being a bilingual and bicultural Palestinian American, helps me to understand the diversity of identities in Alexandria and to have empathy with those who are discriminated against, marginalized or face some kind of injustice. Some of my poems focus on these themes. And like all poets, I also write about my family and friends, love and loss, natural phenomena and universal human experiences.

I am pleased to be writing this bimonthly column for the Alexandria Times to explore literary events and initiatives in the city. As one way to encourage the writing of poetry, I will add a poetry prompt for the reader with each column, in hopes that it will serve as an inspiration to write a poem of your own.

### Poetry prompt

As a city by the water, Alexandria and its history are intertwined with the Potomac River. Write a poem to the Potomac River, addressing it in the second person, i.e. as “you.” Explore its history or your relationship to the river today, and what this means to you.

*The writer is the City of Alexandria’s Poet Laureate.*

# Times Living

## ‘Jurassic World: Dominion’ is an epic clunker

BY RICHARD ROEPER

Certain scenes in “Jurassic World: Dominion” are reminiscent of 1980s romantic adventure films such as “Romancing the Stone,” in which circumstances place two people in a precarious situation as love begins to bubble up between them. At other times, it feels like a “Godzilla” movie, as giant, roaring, teeth-baring CGI apex predators square off.

Once in a while, we’re dropped into a tale of international espionage a la a Bond or Bourne movie, complete with exotic locations and colorful locals and danger lurking around every corner, and now it’s time for a chase involving a motorcycle and an airplane. On still other occasions, we get a cautionary tale about a mighty conglomerate that is creating environmental havoc and will stop at nothing, all in the pursuit of global domination and obscene wealth.

“Jurassic World: Dominion” contains elements of all those types of movies and more – and it’s astonishingly inept in every category, as it frantically careens from location to location and genre to genre, and we bear witness to the slow and painful death of a once proud and wonderfully crowd-pleasing franchise. This is two hours and 27 minutes of pure dinosaur droppings.

Our story picks up in the aftermath of “Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom” (2018), with the world in a state of semi-chaos now that dinosaurs are roaming freely about the

planet, munching on deer and the occasional human and becoming the targets of poachers who catch ‘em and sell ‘em for big profits. The ethologist and velociraptor handler Owen Grady (Chris Pratt) and Jurassic World’s former operations manager Claire Dearing (Bryce Dallas Howard) are living off the grid and in the woods with the now 14-year-old Maisie Lockwood (Isabella Sermon), who, as you might recall, is the cloned granddaughter of the late Sir Benjamin Lockwood and is facing an identity crisis even greater than those faced by most teenagers, what with her being a clone and all.

The lone surviving velociraptor, known as Blue, is living nearby and has managed to give birth to a baby raptor – how cute is that! Meanwhile, huge swarms of genetically engineered locusts the size of feral cats have been destroying crops “from Texas to Iowa” – but they never touch the farmland that uses a certain kind of a seed from Biosyn, a giant bioengineering company.

This is the impetus for the reintroduction of the beloved stars from the “Jurassic Park” franchise: Dr. Ellie Sattler (Laura Dern), the renowned paleobotanist who now has two grown children and is recently divorced; Dr. Alan Grant (Sam Neill), the famed paleontologist who works alone and still has a thing for Ellie; and Dr. Ian Malcolm (Jeff Goldblum), the chaos theory expert who has become something of a rock star, with a best-selling book and a decidedly Jeff



PHOTO/UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Chris Pratt tries to escape via motorcycle from a chasing velociraptor in ‘Jurassic World: Dominion,’ which is 147 minutes of ‘pure dinosaur droppings.’

Goldblum look, complete with trendy glasses, neatly trimmed almost-beard and black leather jacket.

The three are reunited when Ellie and Alan are invited guests at the Biosyn facility in the Dolomites mountain range in Northeast Italy, which serves as both a sanctuary for dinosaurs and a research facility. Beware that “Biosyn” name; it’s almost as if this company engages in biological sinning! Malcolm has recently been hired as a consultant to Biosyn’s mercurial CEO, Dr. Lewis Dodgson (Campbell Scott).

When B-movie poachers

and thugs kidnap Maisie and the baby raptor, Owen and Claire spring into action-hero mode – and their quest eventually brings them to Biosyn. Dodgson has masterminded the capture of Maisie and the raptor because they hold the key to unlocking all the mysteries of science, and that could lead to cures for cancer and Alzheimer’s and blah blah, but we know Dodgson really just wants to control the crops and play God, like every other Evil Corporate CEO in movie history.

In an inexplicably wrong-headed decision, “Dominion” keeps Ellie/Alan/Malcolm sep-

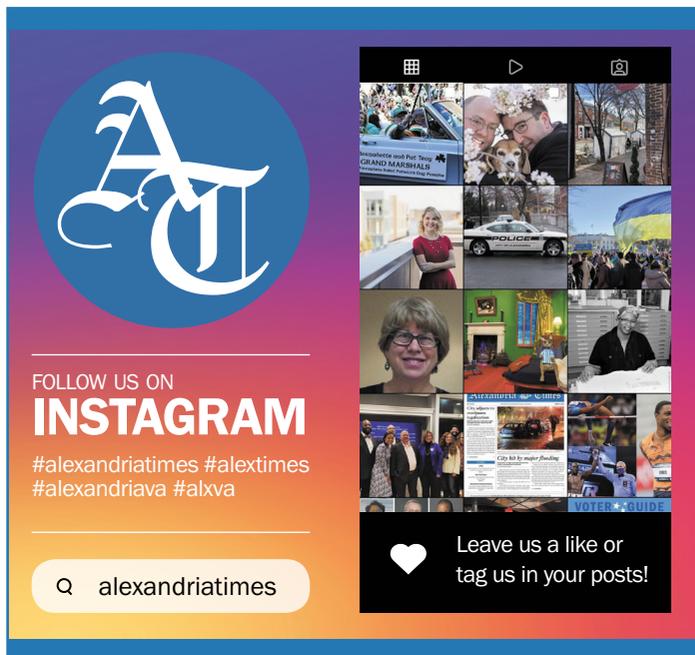
arate from Claire/Owen for much of the film, in a classic study in missed opportunities.

We grind through scene after scene of the various characters screaming and running and narrowly avoiding getting swallowed alive by all manner of howling and screeching CGI dino-creatures, with the occasional pause so someone can do a little quipping or give us some exposition, and then it’s back to the running and the screaming and the poorly framed and edited action sequences.

Every once in a while, there’s a spark of humor, as when Owen says he made a pledge to Blue and Ian says, “You made a promise to a dinosaur?” We also get a handful of callbacks to the original “Jurassic Park,” but it always feels forced – and just when things couldn’t possibly get more ridiculous, we get an epilogue that aims to be profound and majestic but comes across as absolutely ludicrous.

Steven Spielberg’s original “Jurassic Park” from 1993 was a spectacularly entertaining summer thrill ride with breathtaking computer-generated imagery, terrific performances and a clever sci-fi story, and it has a generational appeal. “Jurassic World: Dominion” will be an afterthought by August.

One and a half stars. Directed by Colin Trevorrow and written by Trevorrow and Emily Carmichael. Rated PG-13 for intense sequences of action, some violence and language.



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FILE PHOTO

If buyers can afford to buy now, they would be wise to do so before rates go up further.

## Should I buy now?

BY NANCY PERKINS

With stories of record-breaking inflation, potential recession, rising interest rates and escalating home prices dominating the news, it is easy to understand why many home buyers are nervous about purchasing a home now. Prospective home buyers were already exhausted by the real estate market of the last few years with its record prices, bidding wars and historically low inventory. If a buyer didn't already purchase a home, should he or she still purchase now?

Mortgage interest rates on 30-year conventional loans have nearly doubled in recent months, surpassing 6% last week and shocking many pro-

spective home buyers. However, such rate increases should be kept in historical perspective. According to Freddie Mac, since 1980, mortgage interest rates on 30-year conventional loans have fallen from a high of 16%. By comparison, a 6% mortgage interest rate is still very good.



NANCY PERKINS

Most analysts agree we are unlikely to see 3% rates anytime in the future. If buyers can afford to buy now, they would be wise to do so before rates go up further, knowing that if rates drop, they can always refinance.

That said, rising rates impact affordability. As a general rule, a 1% rise in interest rates results in a 10% decrease in purchase power. Buyers need

to scale their expectations in line with their new budgets or talk with lenders about other mortgage options, such as adjustable-rate mortgages.

With inflation hitting record levels and a 20% decline in the stock market, many home buyers are understandably worried about a possible recession. However, according to the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University, federal spending in the metropolitan Washington area has been steadily rising from \$55.5 billion in 2013 to more than \$90 billion in 2021, and there is little reason to think that will change any time soon. Historically, increases in federal spending offset decreases in private spending in our market in recessionary times.

Even in the private sector, we see signs of optimism. The Professional and Business Services Sector makes up 24% of the region's employment and

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has added more than 12,000 jobs in the last year, surpassing its pre-pandemic levels, according to the GMU Center for Regional Analysis. This sector is the primary sector buying homes in our region.

Finally, it is worth mentioning in four of the last six recessions nationwide, home prices have risen, not fallen, according to KeepingCurrentMatters.com. The primary exception is the recession of 2009 that was largely caused by the housing market. Assuming buyers have stable employment, purchasing a home now is likely less expensive than purchasing one in the future, even if there is a recession.

Investments in real estate can be a powerful hedge during periods of high inflation. The Consumer Price



FILE PHOTO

Investments in real estate can be a powerful hedge during periods of high inflation.

Index, which measures inflation on the consumer level, recently rose to its highest level in 41 years. Gas is more than \$5 per gallon. Food prices are up more than 10% from last year. The stock

market is erratic.

Real estate appeals to investors looking for a hedge against inflation, as it provides an opportunity to invest in an asset that traditionally holds or grows in value.

In most decades since 1970, home price appreciation has outperformed inflation. Investors are especially interested in the residential real estate market where supply is tight. Corelogic forecasts

that home prices will appreciate 5.6% in the year going forward nationally. The Home Price Expectations Survey, published by Zillow and Pulseonomics for the second quarter of this year, states that home prices will appreciate more than 26% through 2026, even with the anticipation of a recession in 2023-2024.

As the white hot market of 2021 begins to wane, buyers would be wise to invest their funds in residential real estate to utilize inflation to their advantage, build equity before home prices go up further and leverage their funds at the current interest rates.

*The writer is an award-winning Realtor and a lifelong Alexandrian who is proud to work, play and raise her family in the town where she grew up. To learn more, visit [NancyPerkins.ttrsir.com](http://NancyPerkins.ttrsir.com).*

**HOME OF THE WEEK****Four-level townhome with abundant space and prime location**

**Left:** The kitchen features pendant lighting and a breakfast nook.

**Middle:** The living room is ideal for casual or formal gatherings.

**Right:** The sleek kitchen with an eye-catching center island.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Perfectly situated in the community of Old Town Greens, 705 Arch Hall Lane is just minutes from all that the area offers and a lifestyle of convenience. The gracious main living level showcases hardwood floors, tall ceilings, crown molding, floor-to-ceiling windows, architectural column elements and a natural flow to seamlessly move from room to room. The liv-

ing room is ideal for formal or casual gatherings and transitions to the separate dining area. From the dining room, enter into the charming family room that provides a modern built-in tv console, shelves and display cabinets.

In the sleek kitchen, the eye-catching center island, sophisticated pendant lighting, quaint breakfast nook and streamlined layout will

make creating meals and entertaining easy. Featuring stainless appliances, marble countertops and backsplash, soft-close technology drawers/cabinets, under cabinet lighting, wine cooler, gas cooktop and commercial-style sink faucet.

A gorgeous primary suite boasts a spacious walk-in, captivating windows, a refined tray ceiling, ensuite

bath with separate vanities, deep soaking tub and a glass door walk-in shower. The top level is a private escape that would be great for guests or an office. The lower-level rec room features a gas fireplace, custom built-in shelves, French door walkout access to a private patio and Control4 Home Entertainment Center with Sonos surround sound system.

**AT A GLANCE****Address:**

705 Arch Hall Lane,  
Alexandria 22314

**Neighborhood:**

Old Town Greens

**Price:** \$1,195,000

**Square feet:** 3,126

**Bedrooms:** 4

**Bathrooms:** 3.5

**Year built:** 1999

**Contact:**

Sue Goodhart

The Goodhart Group

[sue@thegoodhartgroup.com](mailto:sue@thegoodhartgroup.com)

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## Our View

# The power of water

With the advent of summer this week, more Alexandrians will be taking to the water for fun and relief from the heat.

People of all ages will motor, sail, paddle and swim in the Potomac River or picnic beside it. They will hike and bike along streams like Taylor Run and Strawberry Run. They will head to public or private pools and splash parks.

Water fun also leads to thoughts of water safety, and there are two sobering but different examples in this week's Alexandria Times of how precarious this precious commodity can be.

Our briefing page contains the story of a 52-year-old man who was found dead Monday in the Alexandria portion of the Four Mile Run stream, with drowning as the suspected cause of death. And our front page story, "Potomac Riverkeepers propose settlement," details the latest chapter of our city's long history of polluting the Potomac River.

Water, vital to our existence and a primary source of our enjoyment, can also kill if we are not vigilant.

The most basic self-protection against water's potential lethality is, perhaps counterintuitively, to get in it. Everyone should learn to swim at the earliest opportunity, and people should practice swimming periodically throughout their lives, even if they do not regularly swim for enjoyment or exercise.

Possessing confidence in even the most basic swimming skills could prevent a person from panicking if they wind up in the deep end of a swimming pool, in a stream moving more swiftly than expected or in an ocean riptide pulling them under the sea.

It's also vital to maintain a healthy respect for water's power, even if one possesses strong swimming ability. Particularly in this era of tropical-style rainfall and flash floods, it's crucial to remember that water measured in inches rather than feet can knock a person down and carry them away if it's flowing fast enough. We should understand and admit our own limits and also not mix drugs or excessive use of alcohol with water recreation.

What do we do, though, when water harms us because we've harmed it?

This is the gist of the efforts by the Potomac Riverkeepers Network to accelerate the City of Alexandria's timeline to clean up industrial toxins from the Oronoco Bay site that was home to several commercial ventures during our city's history.

The reduction of pollution in both air and water is one of this country's greatest achievements during the last 50 years. Lake Erie no longer catches on fire. The air in Los Angeles is generally breathable. And yet, the water in the Potomac River remains unsafe, with chemicals from a bygone era remaining like discarded vacation souvenirs. Except these chemicals don't clutter, but instead can kill.

We hope the city finds common ground with PRKN and completes the remediation of the Oronoco Bay site as soon as possible. This is obviously not the only current issue where people of today are grappling with the repercussions of their forebears' actions, but it's one of the most urgent.

As we ponder the power of water, perhaps it's fitting that in her inaugural Alexandria Times column, city Poet Laureate Zeina Azzam encourages us to write our own poems about the Potomac River and to "explore its history or your relationship to the river today, and what this means to you."

# Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson

## Photo of the Week



PHOTO/DENISE DUNBAR

A backhoe on a floating dock removes old pilings from the Potomac River Tuesday behind the Old Dominion Boat Club.

## Your Views

# A risk of zoonotic transmission

*To the editor:*

Here we are in the aftermath of a global COVID-19 pandemic, which claimed 1 million American lives and 6 million lives globally. Without missing a beat, the Times' May 26 article on the Colvin Street slaughterhouse, "Slaughterhouse mostly avoids disruption," makes no mention of the real dangers and risks of zoonotic transmission of lethal viruses from animals to humans. Why should Alexandria city residents worry?

Two peer-reviewed studies concluded that the COVID-19 virus, SARS-CoV-2, made a "zoonotic leap" from infected animals to humans at the Wuhan market in China at the end of 2019. Among other zoonotic transmission for viruses, let's count avian, swine, many influenza virus infections, and, most recently, the Monkeypox virus, of which as of this letter there are 92 confirmed cases in non-endemic countries.

The World Health Organization had this to say about slaughter-on-the-spot meat markets: "Markets selling the meat or by-products of wild animals are particularly high risk due to the large number of new or undocumented pathogens known to exist in some wild animal pop-

ulations." Even these facts on the risks of zoonotic viral transmission did not prevent our elected officials from barreling ahead with their approval for the slaughterhouse.

The article goes on to note that the owners of Frolick Dogs and Dogtopia, two canine-focused businesses near the slaughterhouse, did not respond or declined to comment for the article. Let's wait and see how these owners react when the dogs in their care become viral reservoirs for the next zoonotic viral transmission. The article also gives no mention to the mental health of the dogs at both these businesses. Just imagine how these dogs must suffer from the odor of slaughtered birds in the air all day.

The Times' article left out some important information. For example, once a novel zoonotic viral transmission is detected, is the city prepared for those phone calls?

Like the city government, I guess the Times is not expecting anything as troublesome as a community spread from the next novel zoonotic virus. There'll be no need to phone in our concerns.

-David Levine,  
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.

## Your Views

# PRGS site must meet energy use intensity metrics

To the editor:

On June 27, Hilco Redevelopment Partners, the developer of the Potomac River Generating Station site, is requesting considerable zoning density concessions from the City of Alexandria so they can construct 2.5 million square feet of new development on that property. They stand to make a tremendous amount of money from these concessions.

In return, they should be contributing to, not skating around, Alexandria's climate goals. For the sake of climate justice and social equity, they need to give back to the city tangible and real commitments regarding the energy usage of their buildings.

Giving back something tangible and real means the city must require from developers, not green certifications such as LEED ratings, but verifiable building energy performance commitments. As ASHRAE, NREL and other organizations benchmarking energy are now doing, we need to use the simple, understandable, non-gameable metric of Energy Use Intensity as the basic measure for all buildings built in this city under Development Special Use Permits.

EUI is the measure of how many kBtus per square foot per year a building uses. This can be modeled when a building is in design and it can be verified when a building is completed. Alexandria must require EUI commitments for all DSUP projects and stick to them.

An EUI requirement is a performance standard, not a check-the-box standard such as LEED, and it gives architects, builders and developers complete freedom in how they achieve the requirement. This allows them to come up with the most affordable ways to achieve high-performance buildings.

The success of this approach has recently been demonstrated in Pennsylvania, where affordable housing developers, in dozens of projects over the last three years, were required to build to a very low EUI standard – in that case the Passive House standard, with EUI averaging 20-30 kbtu/sf/year. They ended up making buildings that were two to three times as efficient as code buildings and yet cost less to build. The Pennsylvania affordable housing

study also puts to rest the old developers' canard that cities have to choose between affordable housing and low energy housing.

To date, Hilco and Sustainability Building Partners, their sustainability consultant, have not made a good faith effort to help the city meet its 2030 commitments. They have stated they will "strive" to honor the city's goal of making the site carbon neutral by 2030 yet demonstrated no plan to get there. They propose buildings that are at best incrementally better than standard construction – around 45 kbtu/sf/yr – and they make clear that they have no intention of building the low EUI buildings that are required to meet the city's 2030 goal.

They have now stonewalled the city on producing a meaningful Carbon Neutrality Plan for more than a year. They have insulted the intelligence of the Environmental Policy Commission by continually presenting unquantifiable and confusing data. And in their public presentations they have cynically presented their proposed greenhouse gas emissions "improvements" by comparing them, not to standard construction, but to the emissions of the coal plant that the city was finally able to close down after years of effort!

Alexandria's officials and citizens are smarter than this and cannot be taken in by these greenwashing tactics. We can no longer continue this kabuki dance of sustainability, where vague promises and hopes stand in for real actions. If this project goes forward with its present vague commitments, we will see nearly 40 million metric tons of additional carbon added to the atmosphere every year, at a time when we have only seven years left to cut our emissions by half.

While I understand Council's desire to move this project forward, it is too important to get this one wrong. I urge all citizens who take Alexandria's Declaration of Climate Emergency seriously to join me and urge Council members to postpone any action on the PRGS site until the developers come back with appropriate and quantifiable energy use commitments.

-David Peabody, FAIA,  
Alexandria



## Ethical Reflections

with Rev. Ian Markham

# Guns and America

BY REV. IAN MARKHAM

After Buffalo and Uvalde, an appropriately sober America is having a fresh look at guns. The context is disturbing. Bloomberg notes that in the first five months of 2022, there were 214 mass shootings, defined as a shooting where at least four people were shot. More generally, in 2020 guns took the lives of more than 45,000 people in America, of which most were suicides. Guns lead to death.

The debate is polarized. Gun advocates insist that the founders were deeply aware that military power cannot be the sole preserve of the state. In rural America, one cannot count on the police responding within minutes to an emergency and a gun therefore is essential for self-defense. Law-abiding Americans who enjoy shooting squirrels, or other wild animals, shouldn't have their rights restricted because of the wicked behavior of a very small minority. Advocates for gun regulation point out that availability of guns means more suicides, more domestic deaths, more accidents. And a hand pistol for self-defense is one thing, assault weapons that can kill large numbers of people very quickly are quite another.

As we evaluate the different positions, some arguments, in my judgment, seem weak. The admittedly rather catchy and popular slogan "the only way to stop a bad person with a gun is with a good person with a gun" is less plausible after Buffalo and Uvalde. In Buffalo, an armed security guard lost his life as his gun failed to penetrate the body armor of the assailant. In Uvalde, the "good people" with the guns failed to shoot the attacker initially and then failed to break into the room for 78 minutes. Good people with guns do not necessarily stop bad people with guns.

A thousand factors are involved in the moment that make these decisions difficult.

Another weak argument is that because a regulated state still has the occasional mass shooting, the regulations do not work. In fact, California has numerous gun laws and as a result firearm mortality is among the lowest; it has 8.5 gun deaths per 100,000 people in 2020, which compares with Texas at 14.2 per 100,000 and a national average of 13.7 per 100,000 people.

Other ideas might work – arming teachers, new building designs which eliminate windows and add curved walls – but I think home schooling would probably be the main beneficiary.

The reader has probably deduced that my sympathies are with gun regulation. I grew up in Britain, where even the police rarely carry guns. Just as a matter of crude logic, the fewer guns in circulation, the fewer gun deaths. Handguns for self-defense and rifles for hunting are fine: assault rifles should not be sold. And if you cannot drink alcohol until you are 21, waiting for your gun until then makes sense to me.

There is an old joke: an Englishman asks an Irishman how to get to Dublin. And the Irishman replies, "Well, you don't start from here." America is America. We need to start with the reality that a significant percentage of Americans are very attached to their guns. So, I am a warm supporter of the Senate Bill being led by Senators John Cornyn and Chris Murphy.

Incremental progress is better than no progress. We need to inch forward to a better place. People should feel safe in grocery stores and elementary schools. Let us hope this legislation passes Congress.



REV. IAN  
MARKHAM

The writer is dean of Virginia  
Theological Seminary.

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# Rev. Pauli Murray and her ties to Alexandria

Attorney and writer Pauli Murray was a civil rights pioneer, gender equality advocate and influential legal strategist. In 1977, she became the first African American woman to be ordained as an Episcopal priest shortly after completing her religious studies at the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. In recent years, Murray, a member of the LGBTQ community, has received increased recognition for her significant contributions to the civil rights and feminist movements.

Born Anna Pauline Murray in 1910 in Baltimore, she was raised by an aunt in North Carolina after her mother died. She attended college in New York City where she was able to explore her gender expression, often wearing men's clothing and choosing to use the gender-neutral name, Pauli. Murray struggled with her sexual orientation and gender identity. Despite emotional difficulties, Murray committed herself to the pursuit of racial and later, gender equality.

In 1940, Murray and a friend sat in the whites-only section of a bus in Virginia and were arrested in Petersburg for violating segregation laws. They were later convicted of disorderly conduct. This experience and her work as a civil rights activist prompted Murray to enroll in



PHOTO/SCHLESINGER LIBRARY, HARVARD RADCLIFFE INSTITUTE  
 Pauli Murray outside the Village Court apartments, August 1975.

law school at Howard University so she could develop the knowledge and foundation to challenge Jim Crow laws. She graduated first in her class, yet because of her gender, she was denied a post-graduate opportunity at Harvard. She later obtained advanced degrees from Berkeley and Yale.

While working as a civil rights attorney in 1950, Murray published "States' Laws on Race and Color," a comprehensive study of states' segregation laws that, along with a paper she had written at Howard, influenced the NAACP's approach in "Brown v. Board of Education."

In 1965, Murray co-authored "Jane Crow and the Law: Sex Discrimination and

Title VII," an article that used the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Fourteenth Amendment to argue that discrimination against women on the basis of gender should be prohibited. More than 20 years before becoming a Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg included Murray as a co-author of the appellant's brief in "Reed v. Reed," the case in which the Supreme Court first ruled that the Equal Protection Clause prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex.

In addition to her legal work, Murray co-founded the National Organization for Women and worked in higher education, holding positions at the Ghana School of Law,

Benedict College and then Brandeis University.

Seeking to pursue spiritual studies, Murray enrolled at the General Theological Seminary in 1973 and then moved to Alexandria in 1975 to continue her studies at VTS. She lived in an apartment at 2702 Dartmouth Road, in what was then Village Court and today is Seminary Walk. After graduation and her historic ordination, Murray remained at Village Court for the next few years. But when plans to convert the complex into condos were announced, Murray could not afford to remain there and moved to Baltimore. She later moved to Pittsburgh and died there in 1985 of pancreatic cancer.

(Note: While many historians believe that Murray today would likely identify as a transgender man, not all agree on which pronouns to use. This article identifies Murray with female pronouns which Murray used to identify herself.)

*Out of the Attic is provided by the Office of Historic Alexandria. Historic Alexandria is proud to present its Pride Month Lecture by Prof. Lisa Croombs-Robinson on Pauli Murray and James Baldwin on June 30, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum. For more information, please visit alexandriava.gov/Historic.*

## Weekly Poll

### Last Week

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

**58% His departure is overdue.**

**37% I'm sorry to see him go.**

**3% I have mixed feelings.**

**3% I'm not sure.**

### This Week

*Take the poll at alextimes.com*

**What grade would you give the city for its handling of pollution flowing into the Potomac River?**

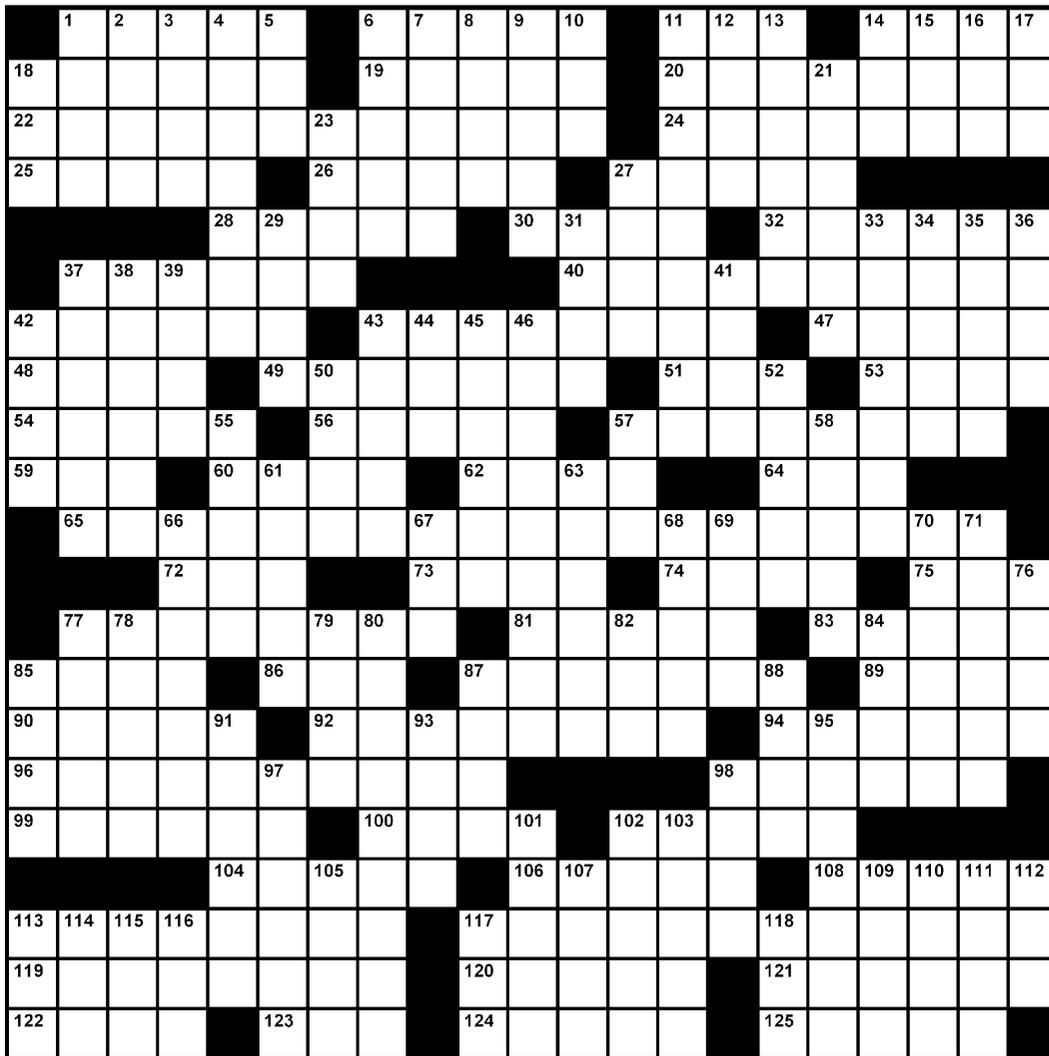
**A) They're doing all they can.**

**B) They're making slow progress.**

**C) Not enough nor fast enough.**

**D) Toxic chemicals have been outflowing since at least 1975.**

# Weekly Words



## ANCIENT HISTORY by Rebecca Goldstein, edited by David Steinberg

### ACROSS

- 1 In need of a rubdown, say
- 6 Burlap bags
- 11 Short haircut
- 14 Trudge
- 18 \*Big Ben's home
- 19 Prom rides
- 20 "Do you understand me?"
- 22 \*Howl like a werewolf
- 24 Arrays in spreadsheets
- 25 Apt rhyme for "cache"
- 26 Warms up the crowd
- 27 They tell you which way the wind blows
- 28 Overjoy
- 30 Raincoat attachment
- 32 \*\*Classic theater name
- 37 The \_\_\_\_ (simulated reality in a sci-fi film)
- 40 \*\*Twitch broadcast, e.g.
- 42 Go downhill
- 43 Risked going too far
- 47 Plentiful
- 48 Home to most of humanity
- 49 28 of Beyonce's awards
- 51 Rooster, in French
- 53 "It's \_\_\_\_ fun!"
- 54 Winter neckwear
- 56 Early describer of animal behavior?
- 57 Places to find Help
- 59 Bae

- 60 Indian musical composition
- 62 Harvest
- 64 Charged particle
- 65 Metaphor for past disagreements that's literally depicted in each pair of starred clues' answers
- 72 Troupe performing for the troops (Abbr.)
- 73 Capital on a fjord
- 74 Synagogue cabinets
- 75 Former
- 77 Post-shower surfaces
- 81 App for sharing pics
- 83 Ballet Slippers nail polish brand
- 85 Fiction's counterpart
- 86 \_\_\_\_ Dhabi
- 87 Self assessment?
- 89 Mite
- 90 Lives a publicly gay life
- 92 \*\*\*New York City's most populous borough
- 94 Like some sushi and ice cream
- 96 \*\*\*It connects to the uterus
- 98 Tropical fish, or excited shouts
- 99 Security system device
- 100 Shade source
- 102 Indigenous Mexican
- 104 Some parents, informally
- 106 \*\*\*\*Rapunzel's home
- 108 Channing of "Magic Mike"
- 113 Bit used to make chocolate

- 117 \*\*\*\*Changes from ABC to AMC, say
- 119 Hype too much
- 120 Not suitable
- 121 Cauldron contents
- 122 Ivy in New Haven
- 123 Stag's mate
- 124 Fence supports
- 125 Canoodles, in Cambridge

### DOWN

- 1 Exactly
- 2 "Only Time" singer
- 3 Secret pacts? (Abbr.)
- 4 "Told ya!"
- 5 M.D. with an otoscope
- 6 Snoozed
- 7 Singer-songwriter Mann
- 8 "Let's go!"
- 9 Kind of ball with strands
- 10 ID shared with a CPA
- 11 Tips that don't leave you better off?
- 12 Middle Eastern sultanate
- 13 Dogs to beware of
- 14 Brief request in a text
- 15 Pace of "Halt and Catch Fire"
- 16 Granola grain
- 17 5-Down and others, briefly
- 18 16-oz. units
- 21 "Encanto" abode
- 23 Elaborate scam
- 27 Null's partner

# DEATH NOTICES

**JOSEPH BAMBERY** (55), formerly of Alexandria, May 24, 2022

**MILDRED KILBURN** (94), of Alexandria, June 6, 2022

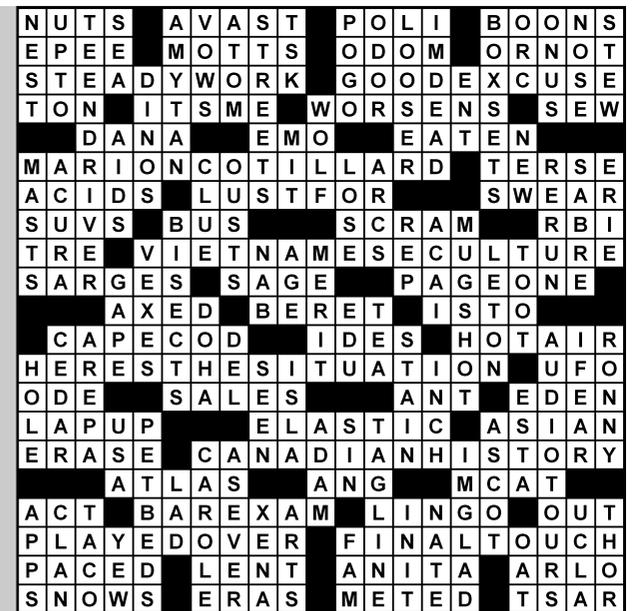
**MARJORIE SIMMS** (84), of Alexandria, June 9, 2022

**SHIRLEY BLUNK** (91), formerly of Alexandria, June 12, 2022

**JOSEPHINE BURR** (95), of Alexandria, June 13, 2022

**KITTY LIPSCOMB** (73), of Alexandria, June 14, 2022

## Solutions from last week



- 29 Journalist Lisa
- 31 Futbol cheers
- 33 Strap over a jogger's sleeve, perhaps
- 34 Biblical outcast
- 35 Stories
- 36 It's a sign!
- 37 \_\_\_\_ mule (cocktail)
- 38 "Schmigadoon!" actress DeBose
- 39 Sovereign who ruled Siberia, once
- 41 British prep school
- 42 Break-even outcome
- 43 Sung ode
- 44 Verbal pauses
- 45 Campfire treats
- 46 Piece of text that's often blue
- 50 Spaghetti sauce choice
- 52 Oddity
- 55 Brand spanking new
- 57 Speed initials
- 58 Idaho's capital
- 61 Smell from a bakery, e.g.
- 63 Lacking a key, musically
- 66 Expresses disapproval
- 67 Two, in Tijuana
- 68 Consumed
- 69 Garments that may be wireless
- 70 Start making music alone
- 71 Chosen groups
- 76 Out of juice

- 77 Jazz pianist Count
- 78 Squirrel's cheekful
- 79 Palindromic Swedish group
- 80 Record holder?
- 82 Pigpen
- 84 Building near a barn
- 85 White lies
- 87 \_\_\_\_ Whip (pineapple ice cream treat)
- 88 Airport shuttle
- 91 Talking tank engine
- 93 Rowing trophies at camp, perhaps
- 95 "We are SO settling this!"
- 97 Arched, as a neck
- 98 Had on
- 101 Cultural prefix
- 102 Proudly admit an error
- 103 Camp sights
- 105 Ventimiglia of "This Is Us"
- 107 Buffoons
- 109 Self starter?
- 110 Class taken before calc
- 111 Saucers in a Pentagon report, briefly
- 112 ISP option
- 113 Playfully shy
- 114 Eggs, scientifically
- 115 Porky pic
- 116 Mine find
- 117 Quarter of a quart
- 118 Some vinyls, for short

# CALENDAR

## JUNE 23

### ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AWARDS

The ACPD and the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce are hosting a reception which will honor their 2022 award winners. The event will feature a reception and a panel discussion on creating inclusive communities.

**Time:** 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** American Physical Therapy Association, 3030 Potomac Ave., Suite 100

**Information:**

<https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=44518>

## JUNE 24

### COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC

The Alexandria Health Department will hold a vaccination clinic at the Patrick Henry Recreation Center. This clinic is free and anyone may attend.

**Time:** 5 to 7 p.m.

**Location:** 4653 Taney Ave.

**Information:**

<https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=44530>

## JUNE 25

### VIRTUAL: CONDOMINIUM AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION TRAINING

Join the city and Alexandria-based law firm Mercer Trigiani in a virtual workshop to educate homebuyers about the structure of condominium communities.

They are sponsoring six free workshops related to condominium and community associations during FY2022.

**Time:** 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Zoom - registration

Information: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_TCDLowVITdKmURaV8-CIGw](https://zoom.us/join/zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TCDLowVITdKmURaV8-CIGw)

**Information:** <https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=45538>

### PIECES OF A DREAM

**CONCERT** Pieces of A Dream, a contemporary jazz group, will perform at The Birchmere Saturday. Tickets can be purchased on seatgeek.

**Time:** 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.

**Location:** 3701 Mt Vernon Ave.

**Information:**

[https://seatgeek.com/pieces-](https://seatgeek.com/pieces-of-a-dream-tickets/alexandria-virginia-birchmere-music-hall-2022-06-25-7-30-pm-concert/5627313)

[of-a-dream-tickets/alexandria-virginia-birchmere-music-hall-2022-06-25-7-30-pm-concert/5627313](https://seatgeek.com/pieces-of-a-dream-tickets/alexandria-virginia-birchmere-music-hall-2022-06-25-7-30-pm-concert/5627313)

[com/e/an-encanto-experience-concert-meet-greet-tickets-334976974147?aff=ebdssbde](https://seatgeek.com/e/an-encanto-experience-concert-meet-greet-tickets-334976974147?aff=ebdssbde) stsearch

## JUNE 26

### AN INTERACTIVE ENCANTO EXPERIENCE

Join the cast of the hit childrens movie Encanto for an interactive show and meet and greet held by Princess Parties of DC. The event will take place in Fort Ward Park. Tickets can be purchased on eventbrite.

**Time:** 10:45 a.m.

**Location:** 4301 West Braddock Rd.

**Information:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com>

## JUNE 27

### NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY

The Alexandria Health Department and the Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS will sponsor a free testing and counseling event in recognition of National HIV Testing Day.

**Time:** 5 to 7 p.m.

**Location:** 3801 Mt. Vernon Ave., Suite 215

**Information:**

<https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=44508>

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

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

**PUBLISHING NOTICE**

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

**[Full name(s) of owner(s):]** Amy Rutherford

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:** Red Barn Mercantile, LLC

(trade name)

1117 King Street

(exact street address where business will trade)

Alexandria

(city/town)

22314-2924

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

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY Wine & Beer off Premises

for a \_\_\_\_\_ license

(type[s] of license[s] applied for)

to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Amy Rutherford, President

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

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

805-52 (rev. 07/2018). This is an official state document. All information contained or submitted therein is public information. Please refer to privacy statement (pg. 3) regarding personal/tax information. Reference instructions (provided separately) with questions. Retail License Application, page 11

## NEED TO PLACE AN AD?

# CONTACT:

**Margaret Stevens**  
[mstevens@alextimes.com](mailto:mstevens@alextimes.com)

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

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

**PUBLISHING NOTICE**

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

**[Full name(s) of owner(s):]** Balian Springs 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:** Balian Springs

(trade name)

6432 General Green Way

(exact street address where business will trade)

Alexandria

(city/town)

Fairfax

(county) Virginia (state) 22312-2413 (zip + 4)

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY Wine and Beer on and off Premises/Mixed Beverage

for a \_\_\_\_\_ license

(type[s] of license[s] applied for)

to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Stephanie Chon, Owner/President

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

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

805-52 (rev. 07/2018). This is an official state document. All information contained or submitted therein is public information. Please refer to privacy statement (pg. 3) regarding personal/tax information. Reference instructions (provided separately) with questions. Retail License Application, page 11

# Classifieds

## LEGAL NOTICE



**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS  
PUBLIC HEARING  
MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022  
- 7:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
CITY HALL  
301 KING STREET, ROOM 2400  
ALEXANDRIA,  
VIRGINIA 22314**

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

Public comments will be received at the Public Hearing. The public may submit comments in advance to Samantha Lockwood at [samantha.lockwood@alexandriava.gov](mailto: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](mailto:jackie.cato@alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-3810, Virginia Relay 711.

BZA #2022-00012  
508 North Washington Steet  
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for Special Exception to construct an addition expanding an existing noncomplying wall in the required front yard; zoned: OC/ Office Commercial.  
Applicant: 508 N. Washington Owner LLC, a Virginia limited liability company

BZA #2022-00013  
619 South Royal Street  
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for Variances to construct a garage in the required rear yard and reduce the required open space; zoned: RM/Townhouse.  
Applicants: Susan M. Alexander and J. Christopher Durr, Jr.

## 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, July 6, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, room 2400, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 on the following applications:

BAR #2022-00269 OHAD  
Request for demolition/ encapsulation at 515 King Street.  
Applicant: Douglas Development Corp

BAR #2022-00257 OHAD  
Request for alterations at 515 King Street.  
Applicant: Douglas Development Corp

BAR #2022-00263 OHAD  
Request for a Waiver of Roof-top Mechanical Screening Re-

quirement at 114 Duke Street.

Applicant: Steven Harper

BAR #2022-00285 OHAD  
Request for alterations at 323 South Washington Street.  
Applicant: Alabama Ave. L.C.

BAR #2022-00286 OHAD  
Request for demolition/ encapsulation at 323 South Washington Street.  
Applicant: Alabama Ave. L.C.

Review of updated BAR administrative approval policy for small cell wireless facilities.

Review of updated Alexandria new and replacement window performance specification in the historic districts.

Old and Historic Alexandria District (OHAD);

Parker – Gray District (PG)

Public comments will be received at the Public Hearing. The public may submit comments in advance to Samantha Lockwood at [samantha.lockwood@alexandriava.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://alexandriava.gov/dockets)

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