Inova Alexandria Hospital celebrates 150th anniversary
BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

Jane Hughes’ connection to Inova Alexandria Hospital is multifold. Not only is it the place both of her children were born and where her in-laws have received care on multiple occasions, but Hughes also serves as a member of the hospital’s fundraising organization, the Board of Lady Managers – a position she’s held for more than 20 years.

For Hughes, the decision to devote time to the hospital came naturally. When a friend presented her with the idea of joining the board, Hughes had already been looking for a meaningful way to spend her extra time and thought it would be the perfect fit. Working with Inova Alexandria was one way to give.

Metro, city plan mitigation strategies for six-week shutdown

Blue and Yellow lines to halt service south of National Airport
BY CATHERINE KANE

WMATA has announced travel alternatives during major disruptions to service on the Blue and Yellow lines south of Ronald Reagan National Airport this fall as it completes the Potomac Yard Station and makes repairs to a tunnel.

Between Sept. 10 and Oct. 22, no trains will run south of Reagan National Airport. Braddock Road, King Street, Van Dorn Street, Franconia-Springfield, Eisenhower Avenue and Huntington stations will be closed.

During the six-week closure, WMATA will be connecting the Potomac Yard station

WMATA will provide shuttle buses in place of rail service.
Christine Roland Garner

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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!

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For additional information & photos, go to: www.ChristineGarner.com
Police investigate Old Town shooting

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a shooting incident that took place on the evening of July 8.

Police were called for a report of shots fired on the 800 block of N. Patrick Street at 9 p.m., according to a news release.

Police said one man had non-life threatening injuries to his lower body and was transported to the hospital.

APD is seeking any members of the public who may have information about the incident. Contact APD Detective Stephen Riley at Stephen.Riley@alexandriava.gov, or call the non-emergency line at 703-746-4444. Tips can be anonymous.

Resa Hutt O’Flaherty dies at 98

Resa Hutt O’Flaherty, a beloved and involved community member, died on July 5 in Alexandria. She was 98.

Resa was native of Montross and graduated from Longwood College in 1945, according to the Zebra. She spent a significant portion of her life being involved with Trinity United Methodist Church, where she oversaw getting greeters for 23 years.

She was active in politics, including the Alexandria Democratic Committee events, and was involved with groups like the Maury School PTA, Rosemont Citizens Association, Rosemont Beautification Committee and the Stratford Hall Historical Society.

Former Mayor Allison Silberberg, who attended O’Flaherty’s memorial service on July 9, remembered her fondly.

“I adored Resa O’Flaherty. She was remarkable and remarkable, not only because she lived nearly a century. She brought out the best in people. Resa was a friend and neighbor to all,” Silberberg said. “She contributed to many civic causes throughout her 74 years in our city. She was part of what makes our community what it is. We can honor her life by being the kind of friend and neighbor Resa was and by creating community wherever we live.”

She is preceded in death by her husband Judge Daniel Fairfax O’Flaherty of Alexandria, VA. and her son Daniel Fairfax O’Flaherty, Jr. She is survived by two daughters, Susan O’Flaherty Griffith and Lucelle O’Flaherty.

In lieu of flowers memorial gifts may be made to Trinity United Methodist Church and St. Paul’s c/o Daniel Hutt 17757 History Land Hwy War saw, VA 22572.

-Mysty-

Mystery is a 7-year-old black and white border collie mix and is 50 pounds of solid gold. She is living her best life as a tri-pawed with three legs, but that doesn’t slow her down at all. She can be a bit shy at first, but once she is comfortable with you, expect a friend for life. Mystery likes to walk in the morning and then relax for the rest of the day–sounds pretty good, doesn’t it?

Meet Mystery!
AlexandriaAnimals.org/Adopt-By-Appointment
703-746-4774

RPCA to hold Teen Pool Party

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities will host a Teen Pool Party at Warwick Pool on Aug. 13 from 6 to 8 p.m., according to a news release.

The city will provide food, games, and music for teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17 at no cost.

RPCA previously held a Teen Pool Party at Chinquapin Rec Center’s Rixse Pool on July 9, after announcing the city would begin hosting pool nights for local teenagers. The city switched the event location to Chinquapin Rec Center after reports of inclement weather.

All teenagers must have a Program Registration Form on file to attend.

Sponsors of the Aug. 13 event include RPCA, Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy, Bully Free Starts With Me, Safe Place, and Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria. For more information, visit https://www.alexandriava.gov/aquatics/teen-pool-nights.

Meet Mysty!
AlexandriaAnimals.org/Adopt-By-Appointment
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“Because everyone needs a home.”

Resa Hutt O’Flaherty died at 98 years old.
Virginia approves budget for city projects

The Virginia General Assembly awarded funds towards Alexandria renewal and restoration projects in the Commonwealth's Biennial Budget, which Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin signed on June 22.

The 2023-2024 budget bill, which the General Assembly approved during a Special Session on June 1, will provide $40 million for Alexandria's Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project, $500,000 to restore the Douglas Memorial Cemetery, and $4 million to construct the Senator John Warner Maritime Heritage Center.

The General Assembly also approved an amendment to the current budget that will ensure $50 million from American Rescue Plan Act funding to AlexRenew, the city's wastewater authority that runs the CSO project.

Annetta Catchings will be the first Black woman to hold the position.

Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson thanked Alexandria's General Assembly Delegation and Virginia's Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees for supporting the city projects.

“We are especially grateful to the members of the money committees, particularly the budget conferees tasked with reconciling the differences between the House and Senate budgets, for fulfilling the General Assembly's commitment to Alexandria's CSO project with a ‘last and final’ payment of $40 million to AlexRenew,” Wilson said.

The $40 million provided to the CSO project will help reduce “rate shock” to AlexRenew customers who had to pay significant rate increases to fund the project, according to Wilson.

The $500,000 for the restoration of the Douglass Memorial Cemetery, a historic African American cemetery, will contribute to the City's estimated $3 million for the entire project. The $4 million provided for the construction of the Senator John Warner Maritime Heritage Center on Alexandria’s waterfront will be appropriated to the City.

Alexandria GOP elects new chair

The Alexandria Republican City Committee elected Annetta Catchings as the party chair at a July 7 meeting, which many local GOP officers describe as “historic” for the party.

Catchings, the first Black woman to hold the chair position, and a former candidate for Alexandria mayor, will serve the remainder of the 2022-2024 term. Catchings will replace Former Chair Pete Benuage, who resigned due to an upcoming move out of the city.

Former Alexandria Vice Mayor Bill Cleveland and his wife, Ruth, nominated Catchings at the July 7 meeting, supported by “cheers” from the party members, according to a news release. Catchings’ win illustrates how the Alexandria Republican party is welcoming to all people, according to Cleveland.

“The election of Ms. Annetta Catchings as the Chair of the Alexandria Republican City Committee is historic for this former slave-trading city,” Cleveland said. “The fact that she has earned her place as the first woman of color to lead Alexandria Republicans shows that the party is open to all, and that the party of Lincoln strives to live up to our national ideals.”

In a speech following her election, Catchings said that her new leadership position in the Republican party would both inspire her conservative friends and family to vote and change long-standing assumptions about politics.

“Seeing me in this role destroys some of the narratives from the Democrats, and helps people think about politics in new ways,” Catchings said.

Catchings previously served as the first vice chair and acting vice chair of the ARCC. In her speech, Catchings said she planned to secure more wins for Alexandria Republicans and expand the party to a broader pool of voters.

Elisa Mondragon
VP of Operations
40 Under 40 Winner, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

The law firm King, Campbell, Poretz & Mitchell congratulates our partner, attorney Sean A. Sherlock, on his selection as an Alexandria Chamber of Commerce “40 Under 40” award recipient!

Thanks for all you do to make a difference in Alexandria!
back to an organization that had given so much to Hughes, as well as to help improve the community in which she lived.

“It all seemed to come together to be the perfect place for me to lend my talents,” Hughes said. “... [Inova] is our community hospital, and we should make sure that it’s a good community hospital because if something, God forbid, should happen to us, any of us goes there and we want to have exceptional care in our community.”

Hughes isn’t alone in her support for Inova Alexandria. This year marks the hospital’s 150th anniversary, which the City of Alexandria is celebrating with an exhibit in partnership with the Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum called “Alexandria Hospital: Women Mobilize the Community.” The exhibit will examine the prominent role women played in founding the hospital and include rare artifacts, photos and oral history interviews with doctors, nurses and volunteers involved with the hospital.

Throughout the years Inova has accumulated a hefty list of firsts, including the title of the first 24/7 emergency department in the country. It’s also the first hospital in Northern Virginia to have a moveable X-ray table, lung chamber and provide a full-body CAT scan unit.

Last year, Inova Alexandria performed 7,991 total surgeries and 3,113 deliveries, accepted 12,790 inpatient admissions and amassed 80,967 ER visits.

Over the course of its century-plus-spanning history, Inova evolved from a group of women establishing a small infirmary to a full-fledged hospital. In the next few years, that hospital will move to the old Landmark Mall site to accommodate its growing demand.

The road hasn’t always been simple; from rocky early beginnings to some turmoil surrounding its upcoming move, the hospital has dealt with its fair share of obstacles. Yet throughout all the changes, the mission has remained the same: to serve the community and provide quality healthcare.
In December 1872, an Alexandria resident named Julia Johns recognized a need in the community for a medical facility following the arrival of a sailor with typhoid. There was nowhere in the city to quarantine those with the disease, causing widespread community concern about a potential epidemic. So Johns and a group of local women took matters into their own hands.

“It was this dedicated band of women, led by Julia Johns, who saw a need in the community,” Mary Ryan, current president of the Board of Lady Managers, said. “The healthcare needs of the community were not being met, and that’s why they took the initiative of founding this.”

The women in the group, who together called themselves the Board of Lady Managers, met to “consider a formation of a society to establish and control a hospital for the sick,” according to the board’s website. The group was subsequently granted a charter from the Commonwealth of Virginia on Dec. 23, 1872, and thus, the hospital – then known as the Alexandria Infirmary – was born.

Managed by the Board of Lady Managers, the infirmary opened in March 1873 at Duke and South Fairfax Streets in a townhome owned by Johns’ father, an Episcopal bishop. This would be the first of six locations.

“It was shaky, to be honest with you, because they didn’t have a lot of money and they didn’t have a lot of support [at first],” Ryan said. “But they did have the support of some local physicians who contributed their time. They moved from one site to another until they finally established themselves at the Duke Street location of the Alexandria Hospital.”

After the first year of service, the board learned that the 54 treated patients were not enough to meet expenses and consequently the infirmary almost closed. Johns, however, called on community members to donate items such as food, medicine, sheets and blankets.

Due to immense community support, the infirmary stuck around. Then, it flourished. Nearly 20 years after opening, in 1894, the Board of Lady Managers started the first nursing school in Northern Virginia, which would graduate approximately 900 students until it closed in 1987.

Soon after the school opened, the board started the first outpatient care facility and several years after that, formally changed its name to Alexandria Hospital.

The Board of Lady Managers administered and operated the hospital’s day-to-day operations for 69 years, before relinquishing direct control to a board of directors. The board held director positions until the hospital merged with Inova Health Systems in 1996.

Today, the Board of Lady Managers is still actively involved with the hospital, serving as one of its primary fundraising organizations. Hughes emphasized that the board encourages each member to bring their specific expertise and skill set to the table.

“Everyone participates in fundraising, everyone does what they’re good at. It could be going out and sourcing donations, it could be participating just by attending and inviting a number of guests,” Hughes said. “It’s a very active fundraising group; everybody’s on a committee and contributes with their best talent.”

Recently, the board has been supporting technology advancement in the hospital for items like neurosurgical microscopes, an O-arm sur-
gical imaging system, a simulation lab for incoming nursing students, and conversions of hospital rooms to negative pressure rooms for COVID-19 patients.

“Even though they relinquished control, they were still involved,” Ryan said. “The board continued as an auxiliary and fundraising arm, which is our mission and primary function today — and what our organization has been doing back from the beginning.”

Sow and reap
In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the hospital’s founding, on June 9 the current Board of Lady Managers planted a tree outside the Virginia Theological Seminary cemetery, where Johns is buried. The purpose, Ryan said, was to “honor Johns and her vision and contribution to the City of Alexandria.”

The hospital also recently formed the Julia Johns Society, which consists of female care providers including nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

The city is celebrating the anniversary in other ways as well. The Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum is set to open its “Women Mobilize the Community” exhibit in October, which will tell the story of the significant role women played in founding and administering Alexandria Hospital. Through artifacts and oral history interviews, the exhibit will chronicle the timeline of the Board of Lady Managers, from the hospital’s inception to the transfer of control.

According to Kris Lloyd, the exhibit curator, its direction became clear after looking into the hospital’s history and learning just how integral a function women had in its evolution.

“As we started to do some research about the history of the hospital, we were really struck by how it was not only founded by women, but they have played a key role in its administration, patient care and very notably, its support ever since it was founded,” Lloyd said. “... As the title conveys, it’s really about the women that were involved and continued to sustain the hospital.”

The exhibit will include three main sections, the first of which will explore the founding of the facilities of the hospital. The second section will discuss patient care, including the nursing school, which Lloyd deemed particularly meaningful because of the lack of opportunities for women during that time period. Finally, the third section will focus on the community support that lifted up the hospital in its fledgling stages and beyond.

Several community events that Alexandria Hospital holds today were around more than a century ago. For instance, the hospital’s annual Thanksgiving food drive dates back to the early 1900s. A portion of the exhibit will highlight some of the early donations it received in 1917, such as the Colored Citizens Association’s $500 donation to support wards for African American women and men, the National Needlework League’s donation of 43 garments and the Alexandria Gazette’s gift of a yearly subscription to the newspaper.

Additionally, the King’s Daughters Circle of Del Ray donated 15 cans of vegetables, two quarts of beans and seven jars of jelly to the hospital.

The reason the hospital prevailed is the same reason the Alexandria History Museum is dedicating an entire exhibit to it this year:

“Sow and reap”

As Senior Nursing Director of Emergency Services at Inova Alexandria Hospital and Inova HealthPlex – Springfield, Zach leads a dedicated team of more than 110 nurses, emergency medical technicians and staff, ensuring our patients receive compassionate, quality care every time, every touch.

Thank you, Zach, for your tireless commitment to our hospital and the community we serve.
community support.

“We’re a community history museum, and the hospital was and is very much a community-based enterprise,” Lloyd said.

**A growing need**

The longer Alexandria Hospital remained in the city, the larger it grew. By 1997, the year it merged with Inova Health System, the hospital’s emergency room was one of the busiest in Northern Virginia, treating about 50,000 patients per year.

To fit a rising need, Inova Alexandria announced in 2020 that it would be moving from its current location at 4520 Seminary Rd. to the former Landmark Mall site, located between Duke and Van Dorn Street off Interstate 395.

Inova Alexandria is investing $1 billion in the new medical campus, which will feature a larger emergency room, cancer center and private patient rooms. The mixed-use space will also include residential, retail and commercial offerings.

Although the announcement was widely embraced, documents emerged last year revealing an old agreement between the hospital and the Seminary Hill Association that restricted density at its current Seminary Road site.

Specifically, the private agreement supported zoning exchanges in exchange for the hospital’s promise to not seek rezoning onsite for 25 years. But last year, Inova Alexandria submitted a zoning request to City Council to change the property’s land use designation from Institutional to RA, which would permit high-density units at the site.

Council approved the rezoning request in June 2021, which SHA vocally opposed — not because of the hospital’s transition to the Landmark Mall site, but because of the possibility of high-density units that comes with the rezoning.

“We don’t want to be painted by the city as standing in the way of first-class healthcare for everybody in Alexandria,” SHA President Carter Flemming told the Times last year. “That was not our goal; what our goal is is to protect the character of the neighborhood we live in, to keep the community in the heart of a residential area to keep it residential in terms of not building high-rise apartments there.”

Still, Inova Alexandria’s transition is well on its way and most are on board with the change. Hughes expressed support for the new location, calling it a longtime coming.

“It’s so wonderful that they’re going to move to the new location because you want to have a dignified and uplifting working environment as well as an exceptional environment for patients,” Hughes said.

Rina Bansal, the hospital’s president, said that Inova Alexandria’s new location is the next step in the continued journey and commitment to providing world-class healthcare. Bansal, who came from Fairfax Hospital, recalled feeling struck by the hospital’s simultaneous innovation and community draw when she first started.

“It’s always been this hospital that’s a community hospital, but extremely innovative and forward-thinking,” Bansal said. “Since I’ve been here and probably the 10 years preceding, probably what’s been challenging for us is our physical infrastructure, because it is an aging facility. Although it’s highly functional and perfectly fine, it keeps us from being that hospital that is state-of-the-art.”

She noted that the new facility will be both patient-centered and team member-centered in its design, rather than built solely with physicians in mind. It will also focus on wellness, including ample green space and open areas for team members to find respite in nature throughout the day. It’s currently in the design phase, with two architecture firms drawing mock-ups for team members to review and provide feedback. Construction is expected to begin next year, and the new hospital is expected to open in 2028.

These large-scale changes will certainly enhance Inova Alexandria’s ability to care for its patients, and Bansal emphasized that the hospital’s rich, storied history is the reason they are achievable.

“It’s a moment of pride for us,” Bansal said. “Us having this amazing history and celebrating 150 years really does engender that sense of pride, that sense of connectivity to the community, that sense of purpose.”

For Hughes, Inova Alexandria’s importance runs deeper than just providing basic medical care.

“Inova has been an exceptional community hospital and it’s been a part of so many people’s lives,” Hughes said. “[Through] good times and bad times, people know they can count on their community hospital, and that’s a big deal. It’s clearly stood the test of time.”

—مؤتمر@alextimes.com
to the mainline system; the new station is between the current stops at Reagan National Airport and Braddock Road and will be serviced by the Blue and Yellow lines. WMATA will conduct operations to “integrate the track, power, communications, and signal systems into the system,” according to a news release. This work constitutes Phase 1 of the planned work.

Phase 2 involves major work on a Yellow line tunnel which will affect the bridge across the Potomac River and cause disruptions for eight months. Between September 2022 and May 2023, there will be no service between Pentagon and L’Enfant Plaza stations on the Yellow line.

When WMATA announced the closures in June, Alexandria city staff said that DASH buses would not have the capacity to mitigate the effects of the closure, unlike the Metro closure in 2019, in which DASH filled in the gaps in rail service.

In June, WMATA announced it would be providing options to commuters during the closures. Seven free shuttles will be offered in Phase 1 during regular Metrorail operating hours. Local and express routes will be available for the Blue and Yellow lines. Rush hour shuttles will also be available on a limited basis for peak direction service between stations in Virginia and Washington, D.C. Blue line train frequency between Reagan and New Carrollton will increase.

During Phase 2 of construction, which begins in late October and will last until May, all stations will reopen, including the grand opening of Potomac Yard, and trains will resume running south of

SEE WMATA
Reagan. During this time, all Yellow line stations will be serviced by Blue or Green line trains. WMATA will also continue to run limited rush hour shuttles between Virginia and D.C.

This planned construction runs concurrently with WMATA’s 7000-series woes. The 7000-series, which makes up 60% of Metro’s fleet, was the flagship train of the transit system with its sleek silver exterior and modern interior furnishings. However, in October, WMATA pulled the trains from service after a derailment caused by a wheel deficiency. Since then, with the majority of its fleet depleted, Metro has had to decrease train frequencies, much to the ire of commuters who have double digit wait times.

Whether Metro will be able to follow through with its plans to increase train frequency on in-service parts of the Blue and Green lines largely hinges on the full return of the 7000-series trains.

Though DASH will not be filling in the gaps caused by the closures, the city still plans to play an active role in mitigating the effects. The Department of Transportation and Environmental Services presented mitigation plans to City Council that include a VRE fare subsidy, converting the HOV lanes on Washington Street from 2+ to 3+ occupants to improve bus service and providing transit incentives for using the Potomac Yard Station once it is open.

Thomas Hamed, an urban planner with the city’s transit office, said that the city aims to make accommodations where Metro can’t.

“[WMATA] will be providing buses that replace Metrorail … but they can’t replace all of the trips, they just simply don’t have the capacity, so they need their local partners to help out. That’s where we come in,” he said.

Hamed also said they were working with Potomac Water Taxi on a possible fare incentive program.

T&ES also got approval from City Council to apply for up to $1 million in state grant money to cover mitigation costs. If the city is awarded the grant, they would have to match one-fifth of the value of the money received.

VRE is also making plans to be a major contributor to the mitigation efforts. The rail service is considering plans to make October a fare-free month for riders “traveling between Alexandria or Crystal City and either going across the river to L’Enfant or Union Station or going south towards Franconia-Springfield,” according to a proposal.

This proposal is in addition to VRE’s plans for fare-free travel for all riders in September.

A statement from a WMATA spokeswoman Sherri Ly emphasized the transit agency’s collaboration with the city.

“We have been in frequent contact with Alexandria since the spring regarding the development of alternatives during the shutdown through monthly coordination meetings, providing briefings at [City Council] meetings and attending community outreach events,” Ly wrote.

Ly also explained Metro’s need for a six-week closure.

“Due to the scheduling revisions that have occurred, Metro determined that the current six-week approach was the best, most efficient way to complete the needed track work and associated testing while reducing the inconvenience to customers.”

City transit staff said they are reusing much of their playbook from the 2019 Metro shutdown.

“We have a good template from what happened in 2019 to apply it in 2022. We’ve seen this before and in many ways this is not as big of a lift for us as a city,” Hamed said.

–ckane@alextimes.com
School Board votes against locating a school onsite

BY KASSIDY MCDONALD

At a special called meeting on July 7, the Alexandria City Public Schools School Board voted on a motion to use Simpson Field for a minimum of 10 years as recreational space. The board voted that they do not need to use the field to construct an elementary school as part of their Capital Improvement Program over the next 10 years.

According to the meeting’s agenda memo, as part of the Concept Plan Amendment Potomac Yards/Potomac Greens, a portion of Potomac Yard Park consisting of Monroe Fields 1 and 2 were made available for the construction of a new ACPS school if it is decided by City Council and the school board to locate a new school there. If ACPS determines that it does not want to use this site for a school, it is returned to the city for its use. Alternatively, as an interim use, ACPS staff can negotiate the use of the fields by the parks department, according to the memo.

Simpson Field is located in the Del Ray neighborhood on the east end of E. Monroe Avenue. The four-acre field is used by Recreational Parks and Cultural Activities for baseball and soccer fields. RPCA has also shown interest in upgrading fields to synthetic turf and adding lighting.

If it is decided that the field will be used as part of the space to build a new school site, and the board and council decide that more land is needed for construction of the new school, then up to an additional two acres of adjacent land will be made available for the new school.

The site has been designated for available school construction for over a decade, but the field is currently frequently used by the community and ACPS for recreational activities as well as soccer and baseball games.

Outgoing Superintendent Gregory Hutchings, Ed.D. attended the board’s meeting and recommended they allow the use of Simpson Field for a minimum of 10 years and permit staff to negotiate the final details of field use by RPCA.

Board members then took the time to ask questions, with member Michelle Rief asking about the specific language regarding the size of the site in the Concept Plan Amendment.

“What we have determined is that the four acres of the soccer field’s space is what’s been designated for school use,” Erika Gulick, director of

Site photos from the Potomac Site Yard analysis done in 2006.

Richard Lee Higgins Sr.

CALLAO VIRGINIA - Mr. Richard Lee “Skip” Higgins Sr., 88, of Callao, Virginia died on June 22 from complications following a battle with dementia.

Born on Nov. 12, 1933 in Alexandria, Virginia, Skip was the youngest of four siblings and lived his entire life in Alexandria and the Northern Neck area of Virginia. A plumber by trade, he took great enjoyment and satisfaction in personal home construction, especially in building his beloved house on the Potomac River where he and his wife Lucy spent years working every weekend to create their dream home.

Survived by his wife Lucille “Lucy” Higgins, Skip’s greatest enjoyment was hosting family at his home in Callao, Virginia, where, when crabs were in season, he would create the absolute best table full of blue crabs that have ever been tasted on the river.


Survivors include his daughter, Christy Higgins Darlington (Mike); his step-daughter, Vanessa Gaudy; his step-son, Ralph Vaquera (Cathelia); his step-son, Roy Vaquera; his son, Rick Higgins (Nikki), plus numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A private burial will be held on July 22 at Quantico National Cemetery.
capital programs, planning and design, said to answer Rief’s question.

Rief then asked whether the two additional acres, which make up the baseball fields, could be used if the board and council decide that they want to construct a new school at the site. Staff said it could.

Rief said the feasibility study was conducted a long time ago and that she would like to see more information to reach a conclusion on whether or not there could be a successful construction of a new elementary school at this site.

“That said, I do think we have a very ambitious Capital Improvement Program over the next 10 years. We’re planning on modernizing a number of different school sites and adding capacity that way, and we don't have a plan in our 10 year CIP to add a school to this site.”

“We're certainly limited in the space that we can build schools in the city,” member Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi said. “We’re also limited in the space we can use for rec activity and for fields.”

Gulick said it is important to make sure that the language is right.

“We don’t want to give it [the field] away forever; we’re just letting it be used a little more effectively for at least the next 10 years. And so that making sure that language is correct so that when it is time in 10 or 15, or 20 or 50 years for ACPS to build a school on that site, we have the city’s full support,” Gulick said.

Hutchings called for explicit language in the decision, stating that there should be a minimum of 10 years, so nobody in the future can criticize the current board for giving up the field forever.

“IT needs to be another conversation, after those 10 years, ‘Where do we go from here?’” Hutchings explained.

“If we’ve learned anything over the last few years, we should be flexible,” Elnoubi said. “You never know, today we may have a capacity issue. 10 years from now we may not have a capacity issue.”

Vice Chair Jacinta Greene said she was excited about the additional fields for the kids and for the community.

“I hope that we’ll keep in the top of our minds the underserved and underprivileged and make sure that comes up in our negotiations, because I'm sure private entities will also have use of these fields. A lot of our families aren’t able to pay private and pay the fees to participate in certain activities,” Greene said.

“I hope that we can always keep this in mind as we go through the negotiation processes for the field,” she added.

Elnoubi made a motion to approve the item, which Board Member Kelly Carmichael Booz seconded. It passed unanimously.
Alexandria celebrated its 273rd birthday this past weekend with fireworks, a performance by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and street vendors.

The annual celebration, started by Former Mayor Patsy Ticer, took place in Oronoco Bay Park on July 10 after being postponed from its original July 9 date due to weather.

Mayor Justin Wilson and City Council handed out 3,000 cupcakes before the symphony began playing.

ASO conductor Jim Ross programmed classic repertoire from American composers, including Aaron Copeland’s ‘Hoedown’ and a joyous rendition of ‘Lift Every Voice and Sing.’

In previous years, the symphony played Pytor Tchaikovsky’s famed ‘1812 Overture’ complete with cannons fired from the banks of the river. However this year, Maestro Ross concluded it would not be in good taste to perform a piece by a Russian composer celebrating Russian victory. Instead, they opted for ‘St. Louis Blues.’

Thousands of people came to the celebration, including Meaghan Regan and her two sons Leo and Patrick. They enjoyed ice cream bars from a vendor as Former Mayor Allison Silberberg looked on.

“Look at that,” Silberberg said, smiling. “That’s Americana right there.”

-ckane@alextimes.com

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EYA congratulates Amy Friedlander and all The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce 40 Under 40 honorees!
DANIELLE KRISTEN ANDERSON

As director of operations for Home-Grown Restaurant Group, Danielle spends her days coaching general managers on how to do their job to the best of their abilities. She loves working in the restaurant industry and being part of the family business. Danielle’s father and mother are a huge influence in her life, and she wants to continue their legacy. Danielle received her master’s and undergraduate degrees in business administration and hotel and resort management, respectively. She spends her free time focusing on her health and fitness. She loves to encourage others to join in on a health and fitness journey as well.

MAURA O’CONNOR BURCHETTE

Maura is a lifelong Alexandrian and current owner of Monday’s Child, a children’s boutique in Old Town for more than 40 years. Since taking over in 2018, Maura’s leadership has led to rapid growth and revitalization. She is a member of Old Town Business and Visit Alexandria and serves on the Board of Alexandria Stylebook. Maura loves supporting her community, especially The Campagna Center, the National Breast Center Foundation and The Seaport Foundation. She also runs The Virginia Cotillion, which teaches ballroom dancing and etiquette to fourth through seventh graders. Maura lives in Old Town with her husband, three little boys and beloved golden retrievers.

MACY CHEEKS

Macy is an experienced human resources professional with demonstrated expertise in diversity programs, personnel data analytics and federal Equal Employment Opportunity compliance. Currently, Macy is a consultant with the Workforce Equity & Compliance Strategy Team at DCI Consulting in Washington, D.C. She graduated from Howard University with a bachelor’s in psychology and went on to obtain her master’s degree in industrial organizational psychology from Emporia State University. Raised in Northern Virginia, Macy enjoys exploring Alexandria’s restaurant scene in her free time. She is also the founder of a 501(3) nonprofit and helps plan weddings on weekends!

ELYSE COSGROVE

Elyse lives and breathes visual storytelling. Born into a family of entrepreneurs, she also “gets” business and start-ups. She is a former international news writer/producer with an education in advertising and more than 15 years of experience in photo/video creation. She has a knack for bringing out the heart of any story and adding a twist to help generate the most impact. Elyse’s ability to connect with people is driven by curiosity, empathy and intuition, which drives the authentic nature of her storytelling style. Her adventurous spirit is fed by the unique stories of her clients, which has led her to shoot in more than 25 countries and work with some of the most successful people and brands across the world.

JUSTIN W. CURCIO, ESQ.

Justin practices law at Curcio Law, his family’s law firm located in Old Town. Justin attended St. John’s University School of Law in New York. Since passing the bar, he has tried hundreds of cases throughout the Commonwealth, successfully prosecuting and defending individuals involved in personal injury actions. Justin was recognized by National Trial Lawyers as a top 40 Under 40 in our area. He is the chair of the Alexandria Lawyers Bar, where he uses his position to give back to the local community. Justin and his wife live in Alexandria with their newborn daughter.

MAURICE GOODHART DESHUTTE

Allison is the COO of the Goodhart Group at Compass. Allison got her start in real estate with an internship for Barbara Corcoran; you can even find her in Barbara’s book, Nextrale. After graduating cum laude from Dickinson College in 2008, she joined The Goodhart Group, working through every facet of the business. The team is now the #1 team in Alexandria real estate. In 2015, the National Association of Realtors’ Realtor Magazine recognized Allison as a “30 Under 30.” She has been a speaker at numerous conferences and appeared on CNN as a real estate expert.

PATRICK EZE

Patrick is a program manager and broadband strategist with the City of Alexandria’s Department of Information Technology Services. He works closely with the chief information officer and the city manager’s office to implement citywide technology initiatives to ensure business continuity and expand consumer choice for broadband services. Patrick has proven successes in IT strategy, program management and policy development. He is enthusiastic about encouraging teams to think strategically and use technology efficiently. Patrick strategizes with all agencies to solve technical problems with innovative solutions. Patrick holds a master’s degree in aerospace engineering from Samara State Aerospace University.

DOMINIQUE FIKAR

Dominique is an accomplished small business owner with more than 10 years of professional experience helping organizations, individuals and companies achieve their highest vision of success. She is a proud City of Alexandria business owner and female entrepreneur. Dominique presently operates Loan Signing Agent LLC, which operates with staff in Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland, providing vital legal authentication services. Outside of her work, she has demonstrated her commitment to humanitarian relief by recently organizing “A Night for Ukraine,” hosted by ALX Community and co-organized by Love in ALX. The sold-out event raised more than $35,000 in support of the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis.

SHENISE FOSTER

For 16 years, Shenise has been a noteworthy leader in the Department of the Army. Shenise is heavily involved in the community by volunteering at the Alexandria Black History Museum. In addition, she is a freelance writer for the Zebra magazine, where she has a column entitled the Alexandria Noir. In Shenise’s spare time she manages her family’s scholarship fund at her alma mater, Johnson & Wales University. Shenise is also a food and travel blogger, highlighting her adventures on her blog, online show and social media platforms, The Munch Travelogue.
RYAN FOWLER

Ryan is a Partner at Boundary Companies, a commercial real estate investment management firm focused on the Washington, D.C. metro area with portfolio properties located in Alexandria. He has more than 12 years of real estate private equity, investment banking, and commercial finance experience. Prior to joining Boundary, Ryan worked at The JBG Companies, Baird Investment Bank and GE Capital. Outside of the office, Ryan serves as treasurer on the executive board of the Eisenhower Partnership. He received his bachelor’s in finance from Virginia Tech and resides in Rockville, Maryland with his wife and daughter.

AMY FRIEDLANDER

Amy has dedicated her career to positively transforming our region’s cities and landscapes, with a specific focus on and dedication to the City of Alexandria. She brings her passion for thoughtful urban design to her work as senior acquisitions manager at EYA LLC, which specializes in creating distinct urban neighborhoods. She has lived in Alexandria since 2013, when she first began her career as an urban planner with the City Planning & Zoning Department and then became a planner with Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh, P.C. Amy received a master’s degree in urban planning from Harvard University and her bachelor’s degree in architecture from Virginia Tech.

DR. MARGARET GLORIA

As the medical director of Palliative Care and Hospice, Margaret provides oversight for physicians and strategic guidance to the Goodwin Living leadership. This oversight includes COVID-19 response, academic research and clinical models that enhance care for the thousands of older adults they serve. She was previously an attending physician, leading educator, and mentor at George Washington University Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine. In this role, Margaret advanced overall understanding of palliative medicine in community health. She has volunteered on medical missions serving Syrian refugees in the Middle East and oversaw ongoing testing for The Campagna Center’s staff in 2020.

ELIJAH WALTER GRIFFIN, SR.

Elijah is a native Alexandrian, having attended Alexandria City Public Schools before attending St. Augustine’s College. Elijah is a member of the Departmental Progressive Club, where he serves as the Financial Secretary. In 2017, he co-founded the Debra Deneise Smith Foundation, which honors his mother. As the executive director, he helps this foundation provide resources, scholarships and grants to Alexandria’s youth. Elijah also owns Griffin Vision Media. He is a celebrity and professional NFL photographer, most recently with the Washington Football team.

KATHERINE D. HARBOUR

Kate is committed to connecting her community with resources to prevent substance abuse in youth and working towards a more equitable city through the Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission. She will graduate from ACHS in 2023 with plans to study political science. Kate attended Virginia Girls State this summer representing Alexandria and looks forward to continuing to find ways to support her city. She lives in the West End of Alexandria with her mom, Ann, her brother, Cole and her beagle, Bailey.

KARA NICOLE HERSHORIN

Under Kara’s leadership, the membership program at George Washington’s Mount Vernon has grown to raise over $2 million annually to support the historic estate. For 15 years, she has worked in the museum field, finding her niche in nonprofit fundraising. Kara gives back to the field by serving as a mentor for the D.C. Emerging Museum Professionals group. She enjoys exploring Alexandria with her family and is active in her children’s PTA. Kara has a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Rollins College and a master’s degree in museum studies from George Washington University.

JASMINE L. LEONARD, MPH

With a passion for health equity and over a decade of experience, Jasmine advocates for historically excluded communities, especially those in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area that she lovingly calls home. As CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield’s first Health Equity Enterprise Manager, Jasmine is responsible for being the resident good troublemaker and leading difficult conversations around intersections of race and health. Jasmine proudly serves as a board member for Rebuilding Together D.C. Alexandria and The Arc of Prince George’s County. She recently launched a health equity consulting brand, Health Equity Jazz LLC, which provides health equity lens consulting, clothing and merchandise.

ELIZABETH M. MAKO

Elizabeth, a native of Northern Virginia, has been working in the senior living and long-term care industries for the last six years. She is a certified dementia practitioner with experience in the continuum of care, from hospital based skilled home health, assisted living and memory care, to in-home private duty care. In her role at Capital City Nurses, she finds fulfillment in being a resource to clients and families. She is a graduate of James Madison University and serves on the advisory board for the Parkinson’s Foundation’s Mid-Atlantic Chapter as their chair of board development.

JAMIE HAMILTON

Jamie has been an enthusiastic, experienced, and strategic business development professional for more than 10 years in the healthcare industry. She currently works as a regional transplant account manager for CareDx, Inc. In her spare time, she serves on the board of directors for the American Red Cross – National Capital & Greater Chesapeake region. She is also a member of the Junior League of Washington, D.C. Jamie believes in using her successes to support others, exemplified through her scholarship for higher education at her alma mater: the College of Southern Maryland. Through this scholarship, she financially supports students entering the nursing profession.

MARIO D. MEJIA

Mario has served as the vice president of delivery channels at Democracy Federal Credit Union in Alexandria since 2019. Formerly, he served at HUD FCU in Washington, D.C. as the vice president of member experience/chief operating officer. Prior to his time at HUD FCU, he worked at Interior FCU in Washington, D.C. as the senior sales and service director for five years. Mario began his financial services career with BB&T where he worked his way up from a branch manager to assistant vice president between 2006 and 2013. Mario is a certified financial counselor and attained his MBA at Western Governors University.
SYDNEY MILLS FARHANG
Sydney is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and grew up in Sacramento, California. She received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Sydney has more than 10 years’ experience in domestic and international nonprofit management, program development and fundraising. She works as the executive director of Running Strong for American Indian Youth, a national nonprofit committed to building the capacity of Native American communities to meet their needs and secure a happy and healthy future. She is dedicated to community-led development and maintaining organizational transparency. Sydney’s passion for her Lakota culture and creating an equitable, inclusive society for Native Americans is reflected in her work.

ELISA MONDRAgon
Elisa joined AHDC in 2017, where she leads the operations of the organization and the Resident Services Program. Under Elisa’s leadership, the organization has grown from four to 11 employees, implemented cutting-edge human resource benefits, and supported over 150 households with $1.5 million in coordinated rent assistance grants during the COVID-19 pandemic. A native of Mexico City, Elisa grew up in Las Vegas where she attended UNLV and earned degrees in anthropology and art history. Elisa completed her master’s in organizational sciences from George Washington University. Her work with nonprofit organizations began in 2006 as a gallery assistant at the Community Arts Center of Las Vegas. In 2013, she moved to New York City to work for Whole Foods Market where she developed and maintained partnerships with organizations.

BRYAN MONTGOMERY
Bryan’s passion for homeownership and his heart for customer service drives his efforts to provide a great experience in the sale or purchase of homes. As a native of the D.C. metro area, Bryan draws on his intimate knowledge of the housing landscape to market his clients’ property and to find the next one to call home. With 15 years of experience as an educator, he goes above and beyond to ensure that his clients are well-informed throughout each step of the journey. Bryan earned his bachelor’s degree from Morgan State University and graduate degree from Drexel University. He serves on the board of RunningBrooke and coaches youth soccer and basketball.

CRYSTAL MOSSER ANDERSON
Crystal is the managing editor for VIP Alexandria Magazine, where she serves in a hybrid function at the intersection of editorial and revenue operations. Crystal is also a popular musical theater actress in the DMV area, performing at the Kennedy Center, Shakespeare Theatre of D.C., and Tony-award winning Signature Theatre. Crystal continues to be a strong advocate for the arts. An Army spouse, Crystal has three children whom she adores dearly. Favorite pastimes include visiting Old Town, shopping, and dining alfresco on a warm summer night.

AMANDA O’CONNOR
Amanda has a passion for communication, connection and community. Born in Pittsburgh, she has lived in Alexandria since 2017. Amanda has worked as a pediatric speech-language pathologist at Skill Builders since 2013, where she is currently their assistant director of speech-language pathology. In addition to supporting children and families in the area, Amanda strives to help adults find joy in fitness. Amanda completed pilates teacher training at Mind the Mat in 2018, where she continues to teach classes weekly. In May 2019, Amanda founded Old Town North Running Club in Alexandria to promote fitness and friendships.

LEIGH ST. CLAIR POOLE
Leigh is a dually certified special and general education teacher currently teaching first grade at Alexandria Country Day School. In the fall, she will transition to a learning specialist role at ACDS. During the pandemic, Leigh founded St. Clair Learning Center. In addition, Leigh co-founded Speech of Cake Summer Camp, an award-winning camp, in 2016. Leigh is the lead teacher of the camp and specializes in literacy for special needs children. Throughout her teaching career she has been awarded teacher of the year and has led many committees to promote student learning.

DAVID PRESIDENT, JR.
With more than 17 years of hospitality leadership experience, David is the director of sales and marketing for The Hilton Alexandria Old Town. David is a business leader with expertise in various roles in the hospitality industry ranging from sales and marketing, opening and converting hotels and leading sales teams to #1 in revenue, to service and personal development. He holds three degrees from the Culinary Institute of SC and Cornell University. Beyond hospitality, he is known as the “Traveling Tailor.” David is a self-taught tailor/designer, who for the past 12 years has specialized in custom-made suits, tuxedos, blazers and other garments. In June 2020, David published his first book, “The Power of a Suit.”

WARREN QUIRETT
For more than a decade, Warren has successfully helped high school students navigate the college admissions process. He began his career in higher education within admissions, but his passion for cultivating meaningful relationships with students led him to serve as a college counselor at various schools within the southeast and mid-Atlantic. He is active within the profession, as he has served on the board of directors for the Southern Association for College Admission Counseling and advisory boards of various colleges and universities throughout the country. He is currently the co-leader of the Black and African Diaspora Special Interest Group for the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

SYLVIA RAHIM
Sylvia recently graduated from ACHS where she excelled academically and served on the Black Student Union. She qualified for the national competition for the Titan debate team, directed the “Governing Alice” production, and was involved in multiple theater productions. Sylvia was the president of Future Business Leaders of America and served as a student representative on the Alexandria City School Board. She is a peer advocate for the city, working with youth coordinators to plan workshops covering sexual assault, pregnancy, anxiety, mental health, and gender identity. Sylvia is the recipient of the merit-based Posse scholarship and will attend the University of Virginia in the fall.

LAUREN G. RILEY
Lauren originally grew up in rural Alabama and made her way to Northern Virginia after graduating from law school in 2018. She received her juris doctorate and bachelor’s degree from William & Mary Law School and the University of Alabama, respectively. Lauren is currently an associate at Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh, where she helps secure zoning entitlements for developers and individual business or homeowners in Alexandria and Arlington. She is a member of the Eisenhower Partnership and NAIP’s Alexandria Government Relations committee. Lauren and her husband enjoy hiking, sampling the Alexandria restaurant scene and spending time with their rescue dog from Project Second Chance.
HEATHER ROSNER

Heather has been pushing boundaries of music education in ACPS since 2010. Heather believes all students should have access to quality music instruction that is meaningful to them and their community. In constant pursuit of equity, Heather has formed a variety of conventional and innovative, culturally responsive programs, including attaining over $20,000 in grant funding to support students in Title I schools. Heather works hard to form deep connections in the community to help families from underserved neighborhoods access to school music offerings. Heather believes music education should provide a sense of belonging and a set of life-long skills for every student.

SEAN A. SHERLOCK, ESQ.

A former Alexandria city prosecutor, Sean now devotes his practice to defending the accused. A native Alexandrian, Sean still lives in the community with his wife Christina and three daughters. Sean serves on two committees for the Alexandria Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and helps organize Jazz4Justice Alexandria, an annual benefit concert raising funds for youth scholarships. He is on the board of directors of the Alexandria Bar Association and is vice-chair of the Virginia State Bar Fourth District Disciplinary Committee. He was recognized as an “Up & Coming Lawyer” by Virginia Lawyers Media, a “40 Under 40” from the National Assisted Week Competitions. Jennifer received her bachelor’s degree in recreation and tourism from Montclair State University and her master’s degree in business administration from Rider University. Jen enjoys running along the Mount Vernon trail, hiking the Shenandoah and exploring D.C. museums.

JENNIFER SOSS

As producer of Brandywine Living at Alexandria’s Escapades, Jennifer leads initiatives to create fun programs and experiences for their senior citizens. Jennifer moved to Alexandria to open Brandywine’s local location. She is the recipient of awards from the annual National Assisted Week Competitions. Jennifer received her bachelor’s degree in recreation and tourism from the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Her goal is to continue to make dreams come true for residents.

THOMAS SULLIVAN

Thomas is the chief operations officer at Building Momentum, a service-disabled, veteran-owned Small Business providing industry-leading, problem-solving training to individuals across industries and the globe. In his previous role as director of training, he oversaw the entire training program and led the creation and establishment of Innovation Hubs across the globe. Now, as their COO, Tom oversees the day-to-day operations of Building Momentum. He helped Building Momentum grow to more than 24 people and achieve annual revenues of more than 6.5 million dollars. Tom received his degree in creative engineering and product design from the University of the West of England. He lives in D.C. with his partner and their dog, Bear.

MERONTEKLU

As a management consultant at Deloitte, Merone supports clients in both the public and private sector with business transformation and technology initiatives. She serves as an Alexandria representative for the Democratic Party of Virginia’s 8th Congressional District Committee, serves on the City of Alexandria’s Economic Opportunities Commission and is a Board Member for the West End Business Association. Additionally, she is active in the Junior League of Northern Virginia and various nonprofits across the Northern Virginia region supporting marginalized youth with academic opportunities. She also fundraises for international humanitarian relief efforts and is a proud graduate of William & Mary.

JOSHUA TURNER

Josh has been a public servant and resident of Alexandria for the past 12 years. As a captain at the Potomac Yard fire station, he responds to emergencies and supervises Technical Rescue and Swift Water Rescue. He also serves as the fire department liaison to the AlexRenew Tunnel Project. Josh advocates for public servants and emergency response in our community as the President of Alexandria Firefighters, Inc. He is the recipient of the Chamber’s Valor Award and the James E. Shortt Award for excellence. When not on duty, he spends time in the community with his wife Morgan, also a lifelong Alexandrian, and daughter Sadie.

KATHERINE WAYNICK

Katherine is the founder of DrainALX, a grassroots campaign to educate and advocate on behalf of those impacted by devastating flooding throughout Alexandria. What began as a neighborhood newsletter has expanded into a multi-faceted campaign that includes resident outreach, civic engagement, coalition building and advocacy at the local, state and federal levels. Katherine currently serves as the co-chair of the newly created Alexandria Ad Hoc Stormwater Advisory Group as well as the membership chair of the Del Ray Citizens Association. Katherine earned her bachelor’s in business administration from Appalachian State University and her master’s in public relations and corporate communications from Georgetown University.

PATRICK WEEKS

As producer of Brandywine Living at Alexandria’s Escapades, Patrick “Paddy” Weeks is responsible for current Virginia and D.C. markets, consisting of 400 units as well as exploring new expansion markets. He launched Sonder’s local presence in 2018, built the local real estate and operations teams, which he oversees to this day. Patrick is the Chair of DonorSee and provides executive coaching to business founders. After earning his MBA from the University of Virginia, he held leadership roles at various startups, consulted with Ernst & Young and served as a logistics officer in the United States Marine Corps. A baseball fan, he lives in Alexandria with his two boys.

SHARON WILDBERGER

Sharon consistently achieves annual sales of more than $20 million and is a valued member of TTR Sotheby’s International Realty. As a veteran, she understands the housing needs of service members and is proud to have helped hundreds buy and sell homes in the D.C. area. Upon graduating from the Naval Academy, Sharon served in the Navy in multiple roles, including combat information center officer, military liaison and event project manager. She has served in event leadership roles to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project and Project Second Chance. When not working, she can be found taking strolls down the waterfront, shopping or out enjoying town.

ZACHARY WOTHERSPOON

As the senior nursing director, Zach oversees emergency services at Inova Alexandria Hospital and Springfield Healthplex. He grew up in Northern Virginia with the goal of pursuing a career in healthcare after being exposed to the profession through the experiences of his mother, a nurse herself. Zach was certified as an EMT while in high school and graduated from George Mason University with a bachelor’s degree in Nursing. Zach returned to GMU to pursue graduate education and worked as an adjunct faculty member for four years. Zach currently also works as a nurse practitioner at a pediatric urgent care. He lives in Northern Virginia with his two young daughters.
ZOE RUO LIN YANG

Zoe is a CPA and graduate of Case Western Reserve University, having earned three degrees (a bachelor’s and master’s in accounting and a bachelor’s in music) in four years. With this unyielding spirit, she currently serves as accounting manager of IADR, performs as a soloist and violinist with multiple DMV orchestras, and teaches violin lessons. She is also the co-founder and treasurer of Paragon Philharmonia, a professional orchestra with a mission to create engaging and accessible classical music. Zoe has performed in the first violin section of multiple professional orchestras in the DMV area, including the Tysons McLean Orchestra, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, and Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia. She also performed the Vieuxtemps Violin Concerto No.5 as a soloist with the D.C. Strings Workshop as a competition winner. Zoe also gives back and shares her passion for violin as a violin teacher.

JASON YATES, JR.

A native Alexandrian, Jason Yates, Jr., is the son of local business owners, Jason and Loren Yates. He grew up in the automotive industry, spending summers working in various Yates businesses. He graduated from the University of Virginia with degrees in mechanical and aerospace engineering. After college, he became an integral part of the building design and development of Yates Corner, an urban infill and Brownfield redevelopment site. He led the design and opening of a 7-Eleven, dry cleaners, two-level automotive repair facility, and Lena’s restaurant. Jason also managed the acquisition and remodel of a local collision center. Throughout COVID-19 he served as the mastermind behind Lena’s themed dining experiences. He started the “Give Your Two Cents” program, which has brought over $40,000 to local nonprofits. Yates Service, Inc is a long-time supporter of construction at Charles Houston Recreation Center, the playground remediation at Naomi L. Brooks Elementary, and sponsor of Spring2Action, Art on the Avenue and the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.

CONGRATULATIONS TO
TOP 40 UNDER 40
WINNER
Kara Hershorin
Director of Membership at George Washington’s Mount Vernon

George Washington’s Mount Vernon
mountvernon.org

Congratulations to Leigh Poole, Teaching and Learning Specialist at Alexandria Country Day School and founder of Speech of Cake speech and language camp now housed at ACDS, has been selected as one of Alexandria’s 40 Under 40 by the ALX Chamber of Commerce! Her students, parents, and colleagues appreciate the many gifts for which she has received this honor, and we are proud that she is part of the ACDS family.
Congratulations
JENNIFER SOSS
for being selected as one of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce’s 40 UNDER 40!

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Delivering the message

Arthur Lee Nelson was one of the city’s first African American mail carriers
BY CHAR MCCARGO BAH

Many African Americans in Alexandria in 1940 were gearing up for World War II. The mandatory military draft was in place. For most African Americans during that period, to be drafted or to volunteer to serve in World War II was an opportunity for them to travel and gain valuable work experience. This was particularly true for Arthur Lee Nelson, who was very eager to serve his country by enlisting in the U.S. Army.

However, the military discovered that he was underage. After that discovery, he was discharged. He had only served for less than six months.

His short stay in the military was a blessing for Nelson. His charisma, his sense of humor and the willingness to work hard landed him a government job in the U.S. War Department as a laborer. He then became a record and file clerk. After obtaining valuable work experience, Nelson got a job as a mail carrier with the U.S. Postal Service. He was one of the first African American mail carriers in Alexandria.

He was well received in his new position as a mail carrier. His warm personality and people skills made him a likable person by everyone he met. He held the position of mail carrier for more than 30 years, and he knew most of his customers by name.

As a postal employee, Nelson was respected in his community. He was awarded the Departmental Progressive Club award of Champion of Equality and Justice in 2007 as a recognition of his leadership qualities. He also received an award from the Alexandria Chapter of the NAACP for his contribution of improving and enhancing the lives of African Americans in his community.

Nelson was also devoted to his church. He was a member of Beulah Baptist Church since 1950 and he became a member of the church ministries. He was a church historian, chairman of the Joint Renovation Board and the mentor and assistant chairman of the Trustee Board. Even with a full time job and his commitment to his church, Nelson still found time to be on several civic organizations, which included the Alexandria Lodge #48, I.B.P.O.E. and the Departmental Progressive Club, where he held leadership roles. In the Alexandria Brad-

dock Station community, he was an active member of the Braddock Station Civic Association, and he served as a commissioner and vice-chairman in the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

Nelson was one of 16 children born to Linwood and Carrie Nelson on Nov. 9, 1927, in Northern Virginia. Nelson’s parents were from Fredericksburg, Virginia. Before Linwood migrated to Alexandria, he was a waiter on a steamboat in Fredericksburg.

In 1913, Linwood and Carrie were living in Alexandria at 310 Henry St.

Linwood was a dedicated worker. He held a lot of responsibility in providing for his wife and 16 children. He was always looking for jobs to supplement his income. Throughout his career, he worked on a number of jobs, including on the railroad. His flexibility in his career choices helped him to earn more money. Nelson acquired his father’s work ethic, which helped him to progress in life.

Nelson was educated in Alexandria segregated public school system, where he attended Lyles-Crouch Elementary School and Parker-Gray High School. After two to three years in high school, Nelson dropped out.

Nelson was not the first African American mail carrier. Rosier Thompson, another African American mail carrier, began delivering mail as early as 1920. However, many African Americans in Alexandria knew Nelson as their mail carrier and as a community leader.

In the summer of 2016, Nelson relocated to Marietta, Georgia to live near his daughter, Rose. One year later in Georgia, he died on March 7, 2017. His body arrived back home where the Alexandria community would see their mail carrier one more time. He is buried at Bethel Cemetery in Alexandria.

The writer is a published author, freelance writer, independent historian, investigative/genealogist researcher and a Living Legend of Alexandria. Her blog is http://www.theotheralexandria.com.
Versatile veggies

Take summer grilling to new heights
BY FAMILY FEATURES

The fresh flavor of favorite foods pulled hot off the grill makes summer cookouts a treasured pastime for families across the country. This year, you can make new memories at those backyard barbecues by keeping in mind that grilling isn’t only about charred burgers and steaks – delicious, grilled vegetables can be just as enjoyable.

Nutritious and full of antioxidants, sweet potatoes are a perfect option for summer recipes as they’re easy to grill in a recipe like sweet potato wedge and purple cabbage salad with poppyseed dressing. Hearty yet light for a tasty side dish, this salad is effortlessly simple and combines crispy purple cabbage, juicy tomato, velvety feta and poppyseed dressing around sweet potato wedges as the star of the show.

With nearly 70% of the nation’s sweet potatoes produced in North Carolina, the state is the largest producer in the country of the year-round veggie, ideal for grilling on those hot summer days. As a versatile superfood, their rich nutritional value and ease of use in a variety of dishes make them an ideal ingredient in recipes ranging from breakfasts and salads to protein bowls, tacos and more.

Sweet potato wedge and purple cabbage salad with poppyseed dressing

**Ingredients**

2 sweet potatoes
1/2 head purple cabbage
1 tablespoon olive oil
salt, to taste
pepper, to taste
6 tablespoons poppyseed dressing, divided
1 tablespoon chopped parsley
2 cups grape tomatoes, halved
3 tablespoons feta cheese, crumbled

**Directions**

Preheat grill to 400 F.

1. Scrub and wash sweet potatoes. Cut each into six wedges. (If sweet potatoes are long, consider cutting wedges in half.) Parboil sweet potatoes 5 minutes, drain and cool 5 minutes.

2. Shred cabbage into thin slices.

3. Toss sweet potatoes with olive oil and salt and pepper, to taste.

4. Place sweet potato wedges on grill perpendicular to grates over direct heat; grill about 3 minutes on each side, or until tender-crisp with grill marks on each side. Remove from grill and set aside.

5. In zip-top bag or large bowl, toss cabbage with 4 tablespoons poppyseed dressing until coated. Add parsley and tomatoes; toss.

6. To serve, place sweet potato wedges on bed of dressed cabbage and drizzle with remaining poppyseed dressing then sprinkle with cheese.

7. Serve warm or cold.
With the summer months finally here, now is the perfect time to spruce up your home - both indoors and out. It’s a well-known fact that homes with strong curb appeal not only tend to sell faster, but also have higher perceived home values – as much as 7%-14% more. While there are many large-scale renovations that can add curb appeal to your home, there are just as many simple refreshes you can make without spending a lot of time or money.

Here are five easy ways to boost your home’s curb appeal – and its value – in as little as a few hours:

1. **Clean or repaint your front door**
   Since your front door is exposed to the elements, simply washing away some of the built-up dirt and grime can breathe new life into this focal point of your home. For an affordable, more eye-catching upgrade, consider painting your front door a bold, vibrant hue that coordinates with the rest of your home’s color palette to help draw buyers in. You can also add visual interest with a simple seasonal wreath.

2. **Seal doors, windows and siding**
   With warmer months there often comes rainy and wet weather, so now is the perfect time to ensure your doors, windows, siding and other exterior surfaces won’t fall prey to water leakage during the next summer storm. Perfect for exterior touch-ups of any size, consider sealant for windows, doors, siding, trim, gutter, flashing and concrete. It outperforms silicone in key performance attributes such as wet surface application, paintability and crystal-clear clarity, while also offering exceptional weatherability, durability and mold and mildew resistance, providing maximum performance for every project.

3. **Update outdoor hardware and lighting**
   House numbers, the entry door handle and porch light fixtures are all elements that add style and interest to your home’s curb appeal, whether you realize it or not. Replace old house numbers with a customized or DIY number display, or simply choose larger, more modern numbers for a few dollars each. Also consider updating your porch light fixtures for added appeal and safety. Be sure to consider your home’s style and the fixture’s configuration to ensure it illuminates your walkway or porch adequately. For added time and money savings, choose fixtures that use the same mounting system as your current ones. Complete your entryway upgrade by choosing a new entry door handle or lockset that complements your house numbers and light fixtures for the most cohesive look. For all three, bronze finishes often look best with traditional homes, while brushed nickel suits more modern ones.
4. Repair any unsightly cracked concrete
Driveway, sidewalk, patio, and other outdoor concrete cracks are both common and inevitable given they are in high-traffic areas and are susceptible to the annual freeze/thaw cycle. Without proper attention and repairs, these cracks are not only unsightly, but can lead to more serious issues or worse, pose safety concerns. Thankfully, fixing them doesn’t have to be a costly headache with the help of Textured Concrete. This premium latex sealant simulates concrete with the durability needed to properly move and flex with heavy-trafficked concrete surfaces while providing a long-lasting, crack-resistant seal. Perfect for use on concrete, mortar, brick, metal, stone, stucco, grout and textured walls, it’s easy to use and apply, won’t stain or bleed, and can be cleaned up with just water if needed. While most latex sealants require a 24-hour dry time before painting, this one is ready to paint in just two hours so you can perfectly match any substrate and move onto your next project in record time.

5. Add color with flowers or plants
From adding flowers around your mailbox or planters on your porch, to installing window boxes for an added pop of color, this is an easy and affordable afternoon project that instantly makes your home look more welcoming, approachable and modern while adding to its perceived value. Be sure to choose varieties that will get enough sunlight based on where they’re planted. Mix and match flower colors based on your home’s color scheme for the best results.

HOMES FROM | 23

Old Town residence polished to perfection
This wonderfully renovated, turn of the century home offers a well-appointed living room with hardwood floors, chair rail and a spacious seating area for friends and family. A rare coat closet provides sufficient storage. The well-proportioned dining room sets the stage for fabulous feasts. The farmhouse kitchen, fully renovated by Braemar Cabinetry and Marks Woods Construction, boasts quartz countertops, subway tile backsplash, a large farmhouse sink and Bosch appliances. Through the rear door, diners can take their meals al fresco in the spacious patio garden. Grow tomatoes, barbecue, play in the water table, or play fetch; this garden has room for everyone. Just beyond the garden gate is a private parking space with newly laid pavers. Back inside is an exquisite powder room. Upstairs are two bedrooms, a renovated full bathroom and a convenient laundry closet. The sunny primary suite is the perfect place for rest and relaxation with well-organized, built-in cabinetry and closet space and a large walk-in closet with a shelving system. The full bathroom is adorned with a marble floor, subway tile shower tub combo, a pedestal sink and built-in storage. Down the hall, the second bedroom overlooks the garden and offers a large closet. Recent updates to this home include new double pane Marvin windows, a new Rheem HVAC system and air handler, as well as a new water heater. This home is a half mile to Braddock Road Metro Station and is just four blocks to the world class restaurants and shops of Alexandria’s fabled King Street.

AT A GLANCE
Address: 923 Oronoco St., Alexandria 22314
Neighborhood: Old Town
Price: $845,000
Square feet: 1,240
Bedrooms: 2
Bathrooms: 1.5
Year built: 1900
Contact:
Nancy Perkins
NancyPerkins.ttrsir.com
NPerkins@TTRSIR.com
703-402-5599

HOME OF THE WEEK
Left: This 1900 brick residence is only four blocks to King Street and a half of a mile to the Braddock Metro Station.
Middle: The spacious “farmhouse” kitchen offers Bosch appliances, quartz countertops and a farmhouse sink.
Right: Enjoy the fenced brick patio and a large off-street parking spot.
Weekly Words

ACROSS
1 Coarse-toothed cutter
2 Mix
3 Payment promises
4 Aggressive poker phrase
5 You can often see through it
6 Tiny size
7 Supplier of St. Nick’s steering mechanism?
8 Unagi, in sushi
9 One may last a lifetime
10 Seven, on a sundial
11 "Poor venomous fool," in "Antony and Cleopatra"
12 Paw cushion
13 Part of a tall cake
14 Like the Vikings
15 Author Amy
16 Consent to the installation of banana chandeliers?
17 Tiny size
18 Singer with the Heartbreakers
19 Energy-efficient bulbs (Abbr.)
20 Chapel Hill sch.
21 Aggressive poker phrase
22 Mix
23 You can often see through it
24 You can often see through it
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Solutions from last week

ELIZABETH-ELLEN BANCRFT (64), of Alexandria, July 3, 2022
KATHRYN FISH, formerly of Alexandria, July 9, 2022
DORIS MCPHAIL (56), of Alexandria, July 7, 2022
LOUIS MEADOR (95), of Alexandria, July 7, 2022
DOROTHY MULLIGAN (97), formerly of Alexandria, July 6, 2022
RESA O’FLAHERTY (98), of Alexandria, July 5, 2022
RAYMOND SCOTT (83), of Alexandria, July 3, 2022

DEATH NOTICES

RAISES MASCOT SOD
RUB SOME DIRT ON IT BARE
OBJECT PERMANENCE OMAN
SLEEP TOOTS TUX SECT
SECT DIRE REUSE INSOLE
STARDUST CLYDESDALE
RARETREATS STAND
LEWIS AIR CAP SOSAD
GENES TIG SOROS VALE
SITAR GOTHIC MRT AMEN
ADS MONSTROSITY ERS
YENS OTS HERONS WROTE
HOOT OWIES PUG HEELS
INTELILLIN POSED
GAITS BLOODTESTS
FOLK HEROES SUREBETS
LAHERROWNER MUSE RUT
ECHOESCthumb NOIRE
DEEM EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE
TIRE SCULPTURE GARDEN
ODE OBSESS NOLESS

WEIRD AL by Trent H. Evans, edited by David Steinberg

DOWN
1 Creamy Italian rice dish
2 Like Zoroastrianism
3 Pro-V shampoo brand
4 Indian instrument
5 "Immediately!"
6 Director Anderson
7 Limited coverage provider at the Olympics?
8 Cow’s "flyswatter"
9 Traveler's stop
10 Legume in a Creole rice dish
11 "It all gets done"
12 Dip for Italian bread
13 Jagged
14 Relative of Alexa
15 "Hotel ____" (Don Cheadle film set in Africa)
16 "Hotel ____" (Don Cheadle film set in Africa)
17 "Hotel ____" (Don Cheadle film set in Africa)
18 Bacteriologist who invented a dish
19 Poetic tributes
20 Dateless
21 Silly
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Our View

A deserved celebration

One hundred and fifty years ago, Julia Johns and a team of local women changed the face of healthcare in the City of Alexandria, and we couldn’t be more thankful. In 1872, after a sailor arrived at the city’s port with typhoid fever and subsequently caused community worry, it immediately became apparent that the city didn’t have a location to treat or quarantine ill community members.

An emboldened Johns took it upon herself to gather a group of like-minded women who put their heads together to build “a hospital for the sick.” The foundation was precarious at first, as evidenced by the hospital almost closing after its first year due to financial woes, but it steadily solidified over time. Local businesses and residents came out of the woodwork to supply the fledgling organization with medicine, blankets and food to keep it afloat.

Now, several thousand employees, patients and one upcoming renovation later, the hospital has decidedly secured a foothold in the city.

It’s awe-inspiring to watch a seedling idea evolve over more than a century into a large-scale operation – one so large, in fact, that it has to build an entirely new medical campus to meet growing demand. Even more heartening is the knowledge that the community’s unwavering support is what lifted Alexandria Hospital out of the trenches and helped ensure its longevity.

But the most impressive aspect is the fact that a group of women, led by Johns, was steering the ship. Their dogged determination produced reverberations throughout the entire community that continue today, which is highly inspiring in and of itself, but is compounded by the fact that they accomplished such a feat at a time when women weren’t even allowed to vote.

Clearly, the world has come a long way since then – and still has a long way to go – but Johns and her team are nothing short of pioneers who have unquestionably earned their place as city icons.

Thanks to Johns, city residents don’t have to travel far to receive medical aid. They have access to innovative technology and state-of-the-art care from a nationally recognized institution that will only enhance when the hospital transitions to its larger new location.

It’s also exciting and entirely appropriate that the city is currently working on its “Alexandria Hospital: Women Mobilize the Community” exhibit, which will outline Johns’ full story and the effort involved in starting and running the hospital.

A plaque by Johns’ grave, located at the Virginia Theological Seminary, refers to her as “A Visionary Community Pioneer, Extraordinary Leader of Women and Compassionate Humanitarian.”

We agree.

Thank you, Julia Johns. And congratulations on 150 years, Alexandria Hospital. Here’s to 150 more.

Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson

Your Views

Benefiting those less fortunate

To the editor:

Concerning the column by Bill Rossello in the June 9 Alexandria Times, “Making Alexandria less affordable for all:” I am dismayed that the very real affordable housing crisis, which damages the health and well-being of low-income Alexandrian families, is being conflated with the perennial issue of taxes and fees paid by homeowners.

As an Alexandrian who personally knows people that struggle to pay high rents for substandard housing, I am aware that the local housing market no longer provides safe affordable housing for working-class Alexandrians. I personally do not wish to live in a community that excludes, and do not want to raise my children in such a community.

Tours of housing conducted by Tenants and Workers United, and attended by Grassroots Alexandria, suggest that market-rate housing for working-class Alexandrians is often substandard. By contrast, designated affordable housing is safe, healthy and very much needed for Alexandria families. By working class, I refer to those making 30% to 40% of the area median income. According to the nonprofit Alexandria Housing Development Corporation, it is impossible to provide such housing, even on a nonprofit basis, without subsidies.

As co-chair of Grassroots Alexandria, I favor an “all of the above” approach to affordable housing. Every proposed solution – dedicated funding, bonus density – is a small step that affects only a few of us. To keep the economic and cultural diversity that we all value so much, we must all pull together and do our part. As a homeowner, I would be proud to pay more in taxes if I knew that the additional funds would directly benefit those less fortunate than myself.

- Kevin Brady, 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.
To the editor:

On July 1, the City of Alexandria leapt into FY2023. Earlier in May, City Council had approved the annual budget of $849,213,971. And now the city staff of more than 900 employees – and their agencies – will oversee how the budget details are implemented and how that money is spent.

If a project pushed by the city’s Transportation and Environmental Services costs nine and a half times the neighborhood’s recommended alternative, wouldn’t the latter be the better choice? Especially if the T&ES choice has the potential for damage, upheaval and destruction of a $1.9 million asset the city agreed to ‘protect and to preserve,’ would unnecessarily remove nine parking places, and doesn’t have a fact-supported safety reason behind it?

While $100,000 for the city’s proposed project may seem like a tiny pittance out of an $850 million pile of money, it is a significant amount if you are one of the city’s residents who just paid your taxes and you are being asked involuntarily to fund this unnecessary effort, spearheaded by T&ES.

The “target” for this T&ES effort is the 5325 Polk Open Space Park, where plans for a concrete sidewalk within its border could seriously damage the foundational structure of a site that has a slope reaching to almost 50%, with “expandable” clay soil and underground water sources.

T&ES is ignoring input from neighbors living close to this proposed project, which could severely impact their safety and that of their homes; remove nine available on-street parking spaces; create severe damage to the foundations of their homes and streets; and upend a city park, funded with federal and Alexandria dollars. If you lived on the impacted streets, would you be willing to support this T&ES expenditure?

Described as an “Urban Oasis,” the park site triggered battles between developers, the city planners and residents, beginning in 2000. Four West End civic associations fought against dangerous encroachments for 13 years, when the property owner finally agreed to sell the 2.3-acre site. The DOD provided $1.5 million in mitigation funds to compensate for the six acres DOD took to build the BRAC Building and Alexandria added $400,000 in Open Space Funds. On Dec. 5, 2012, the city authorized the sale and promised to ‘protect and preserve’ this environmentally fragile site.

And, for almost 10 years, the transaction was considered “settled law.” But, suddenly, in November 2021, T&ES decided to ignore the facts from several previous public hearings by the Planning Commission, which had dismissed requests by developers for multi-family units, ranging from 17 to 42 units. And instead, T&ES has since pushed for an unwanted and unneeded impervious concrete sidewalk within the pristine borders of 5325 Polk Open Space Park.

T&ES avoids the consensus-preferred option by affected neighbors for a striped crosswalk, with appropriate signage, that would cost $5,000 to $95,000 less than the environmentally threatening sidewalk within an area designated as a watershed protection zone.

Why is there such a disconnect?

Regardless of where you live in Alexandria, all residents expect that our elected and appointed city officials will provide the requisite “due diligence” when weighing – on our behalf – which projects should move ahead and which shouldn’t. Measurement priorities should include the effectiveness, efficiency, safety and cost.

Drive by 5325 Polk and see for yourself.

-Kathy Burns, Alexandria
Alexandria and the Marquis

Historic Alexandria commemorates Bastille Day by remembering its connection to Gilbert du Mortier, more commonly known as the Marquis de Lafayette. In 1824, James Monroe invited Lafayette, then the last surviving major general of the American Revolutionary War, to visit the country whose independence he fought for almost 50 years earlier. The trip was scheduled to last four months, but Lafayette’s time was so in demand that he stayed in the United States from July 1824 to September 1825. For a substantial part of that time, he resided in Alexandria, then part of the District of Columbia.

By this time, he had not only experienced the American Revolution but the French Revolution as well. Initially a supporter of the Revolution, Lafayette enthusiastically helped author the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, often using the words of Thomas Jefferson as inspiration. He was also named the commander-in-chief of France’s National Guard after the storming of the Bastille. But in 1792, the French Revolution turned on Lafayette, and he fled with his family to the Austrian Netherlands. He was captured by Austrian troops and imprisoned for five years. Later, he refused to participate in Napoleon’s government or military, and while he returned to politics after the restoration of the Bourbon dynasty, he had left the legislature by the time he embarked for New York on July 13, 1824.

He arrived in the District of Columbia on Oct. 12, 1824. The Monroe administration made arrangements for Lafayette, his son George Washington Lafayette — named for his former commander and mentor — and his personal secretary Auguste Levasseur. While the group spent more time in the Chesapeake region than any other, they eventually visited all 24 states of the Union at the time. While in Alexandria, they stayed at 301 S. St. Asaph St., owned by the Widow Lawson. Lafayette’s appearances caused festive celebrations in the towns and cities he visited, and Alexandria was no different. Indeed, Alexandria’s prominent citizen Benjamin Hallowell wrote a poem about the proliferation of Lafayette memorabilia in Alexandria during Lafayette’s stay in our city, which coincided with Hallowell’s wedding.

The house where Lafayette stayed still stands. The name of Fayette Street is an enduring reminder of Alexandria’s affection for the man who left France to fight for American independence. By all accounts, Lafayette basked in the honors and celebrity that came his way during his stay.

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

1824 Souvenir mugs from Lafayette’s visit to Alexandria.

One wonders, however, if he reflected on how different our country was from the way he had envisioned it. His close friends Washington and Hamilton had died more than 20 years earlier. Lafayette supported the abolition of slavery for philosophical reasons and cultivated connections with prominent abolitionists throughout the United States. One wonders what he thought about the expansion of the United States going hand in hand with the expansion of slavery as an institution in our country.
**JULY 14**

**VIRTUAL OCEAN WORLD WITH A NASA SCIENTIST** Join Dr. Jessica Noviello on Zoom for a Q&A session on ice and water in the solar system. Registration in advance is required.

**Time:** 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Zoom

**Information:** https://alexfamilyday.virginia/VELOCITY WAREHOUSE MONTHLY MINI BICYCLE SALE** The sale gives the community the opportunity to browse the as-is bicycle inventory, including hybrids, 90s mountain bikes, beach cruisers, kids bikes, and vintage road bikes. It also includes loads of used bicycles parts and accessories.

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Location:** 1502 Mt Vernon Ave

**Information:** https://velocitycoop.org

**LAUNCH OF NEW FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING STATION** The City of Alexandria’s T&ES department will launch a fifth farmers’ market composting location at the Old Town North Farmers’ Market. To celebrate the opening, the City will give free compost caddies to the first 30 residents to drop off food waste.

**Time:** 10 to 11 a.m.

**Location:** 901 N Royal St.

**Information:** https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=45660

**CALENDAR**

**JULY 14**

**FOOD DRIVE TO SUPPORT ALIVE** Stop by the Roundhouse between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. with your donations. Beverages and snacks will be available for your enjoyment. Check out the list of accepted food donations keeping in mind the restrictions.

**Time:** 8 to 10 a.m.

**Location:** 3900 King St.

**Information:** https://www.alexlibraryva.org/event/6890221

**JULY 16**

**ARCHEOLOGY SUMMER**

**OBITUARY**

**Louis Rodenberg**

Louis Brand “Randy” Rodenberg, Jr. PE, Colonel US Army (Ret.), 86 passed away on June 26, surrounded by his family in Richmond, Virginia.

He was born on Dec. 14, 1935 in Cincinnati, Ohio to a son of the late Louis B. Rodenberg, Sr. and Virginia Fitch Rodenberg.

As he wrote for his West Point 50th reunion: “I grew up on the Old Crow Bourbon Distillery, way out in the country outside of Frankfort, KY. Asked not to return to public school (there were a few problems that never quite got into the court system), I was sent to military school at Kentucky Military Institute (KMI) in Louisville, KY/Venice, FL. From there I went to The Bullis School in Silver Spring, MD to get pooped up for the entrance exam to USMA (West Point). I’ve been a member of the construction management advisory boards for two local universities, George Washington University and Northern Virginia Community College; a longtime member of the Alexandria Rotary Club, a member of the Harley Owners Group (HOG), and a board member for Burke and Herbert Bank and IVA-KOTA Assoc. Bruce and I have been fortunate to also have homes in Venice, FL (the old winter home of KMI) and Stafford, VA on the Potomac, where we have enjoyed our dogs and boats.”

After graduating from West Point in 1958, Colonel Rodenberg went on to have a distinguished career with the U.S. Army for more than 30 years. During that time, he completed tours in Germany, Greenland and Vietnam. In between tours, he received a master’s degree in Engineering from Princeton University and was a professor at the United States Military Academy. Colonel Rodenberg was a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal and the National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster among other honors. Upon his Army retirement, he joined VVKR Architects and later went on to start his own construction management company, CMC Inc.

Randy loved spending time with his family, enjoying the outdoors, boating and grilling with a cold beer in hand. On hot summer afternoons he could be spotted dozing in the hammock with his faithful dog, Brooke, close by. He is survived by his wife, Bruce G. Rodenberg; his son, Louis B. “Brand” Rodenberg, III; two daughters, Virginia R. Sapp and Mary T. Myers; a brother, Clint F. Rodenberg; a stepdaughter, Victoria R. Rankins; a stepson, Robert B. Rogers; and his grandchildren, Noah B. Rodenberg, Grayson H. Sapp, Reegan M. Sapp, Kenley B. Rogers, and Liam M. Rankins, H. Heather A. “Abbey” Rankins and Meghan G. Rankins.

A funeral service was held on July 9 at Aquia Episcopal Church, 2938 Richmond Hwy., Stafford, Virginia 22554 with interment following with military honors in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, Aquia Episcopal Church, or to the Westminster-Canterbury Fellowship Fund, 1600 Westbrook Ave., Richmond, VA 23227.

Online condolences may be made at www.moserfuneralhome.com.
Sheila Ann Sykes

A strong-willed, savvy and perpetually stylish woman, Sheila Ann Sykes passed away with her beloved brother Mariano (MARIO) Puglia by her side on June 25. Her battle was long, beginning with a diagnosis of pulmonary hypertension.

Born in Alexandria on Feb. 6, 1954, Sheila lost her mother at a young age. As a young adult she drove away from her hometown with her sister, crossing the country together to start anew.

As a child Sheila was mischievous, sharp and full of moxie. Sometimes she’d tease the local boys, then run to her backyard where her German Shepherd was sure to protect her.

Always tailored from head to toe, she was known for her impeccable look and avant garde style. She turned heads wherever she went, making everything she wore look impossibly expensive. She had a sixth sense for fashion trends, playfully called herself a “professional shopper,” and was revered by sales clerks and other fashionistas from San Francisco to Beverly Hills.

Her skin was immaculate, cared for even in the days leading up to her death by her doting brother. From nail tips to toes, she was always flawless, never a hair out of place.

Every time Mariano would introduce Sheila to a new friend, they would comment that she had class that couldn’t be bought. It was the way she stood, her mannerisms, how she would ask a question, the way she would – or wouldn’t – respond.

Sheila’s curiosity was palpable and manifested in her interest in all she encountered. She had a gift for making everyone feel special and a unique ability to bend people to her will.

She cared deeply for others, and in 1992 founded a nonprofit organization that was devoted to rescued runaway girls from ages 7 to 17. She took pride in teaching the girls how to navigate life gracefully and earn the respect of others. The organization closed after she became ill and could no longer manage it with the same level of intensity.

A coffee aficionado, Sheila loved popping into different shops in the morning to order drink after drink. When she was intubated and they offered to spray her mouth with ice water, she quipped, “can’t it be iced coffee?”

In 2010 she was the recipient of a heart and double lung transplant. Soon after she received a kidney transplant from her younger brother Mariano. This earned her an additional 12 years of life which allowed her to survive, thrive and outlive her father who died in March at age 101 ½.

Mariano was her favorite (playful) sparring partner, her devoted caretaker, her closest and most devoted friend. The two were each other’s safe space and favorite companion. Although forces tried to tear them apart, none ever succeeded. Love was their language; they were a unit whose bond was unbreakable.

Sheila was a fighter. She never gave up, and had innumerable comebacks before she eventually left this world.

In the end she was decisive about who surrounded her in her most vulnerable moments; she was her own voice, her own person and she made her own decisions. Sheila even insisted she be recorded on her deathbed, so her choices would be known. Sheila controlled her own narrative up until the very end (as witnessed by the professionals at UCSF). She even wrote an outline of her own obituary, naming whom she wanted to be included and carefully describing her brother and other loved ones.

Her message to her girls and loved ones was to be careful who you keep close to you. Sometimes the ones you trust can hurt you the most. Other advice she offered included: embrace your own power, follow your instincts and be savvy about your personal life and finances.

Sheila passed peacefully after Mariano told her it was okay to go. She looked at Mariano one last time, closed her eyes and drifted off.

She was predeceased by her father Leroy Sykes; her mother Naomi Elmore; her brother LeRoy Sykes Jr.; her best-friend and chosen sister Phoebe J. Garvin.

She is survived by her devoted niece Melina McCray and her brother, confidant and caretaker Mariano Puglia.

A special mention goes out to the UCSF team led by the brilliant and humble Dr. J. Matthew Aldrich who gave her the opportunity to live to see another birthday and Christmas and survive her father. Many thanks go out to the heart of the critical care unit, friend and social worker extraordinaire Elizabeth Manning; Stacey Hoyer, whose attendance to Sheila at home was a catalyst for her ability to breathe; APS social worker Sara Cholewick for her due diligence; and friend Armav Christine Baron, who offered Sheila and Mariano her unconditional support and love.

She was cremated on June 30. In lieu of flowers, donations in Sheila’s name may be made to The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV). Call (737) 234-6464 to donate.
LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SEQUOYAH COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex rel. Jack Thorp, DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Plaintiff,

vs.

$200,000.00 CASH, Defendant,

JUSTICE WAYNE, Potential Claimant.

NOTICE OF SEIZURE AND FORFEITURE
STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO:

JUSTICE WAYNE
1420 W. ABINGDON DR., APT 318
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22304-1235

And all others claiming an interest in the above described property, namely:

$200,000.00 CASH

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Title 63 O.S.A. Sec. 2-503, et. seq., of the seizure on April 9, 2021 of the above referenced $200,000.00 CASH by the State of Oklahoma and the intended forfeiture of the above-described property by the State of Oklahoma pursuant to 63 O.S. § 2-503(A)(7), as said currency was found in close proximity to an amount of forfeitable substances, to forfeitable drug manufacturing or distribution paraphernalia or to forfeitable records of the importation, manufacture or distribution of substances, which are rebuttably presumed to be forfeitable under the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act.

Further, notice is hereby given that within forty-five (45) days after mailing or publication of this Notice, the owner of the above property and any other party in interest or claimant thereto, may file a verified answer with the Clerk of the District Court of Sequoyah County, Oklahoma claiming the said property and by serving a copy of such claim upon the District Attorney of Sequoyah County, Oklahoma.

Further, notice is hereby given that if at the end of forty-five (45) days after this Notice has been mailed or published, there be no verified answer on file, the District Court of Sequoyah County, Oklahoma shall hear evidence upon the facts of the unlawful use of the above described property and shall order said property forfeited to the State of Oklahoma if such facts be proven.

Dated this 13th day of April, 2021.

Jack Thorp, District Attorney
BY: (Signed by Jack Thorp)
District Attorney, District 27
120 E. Chickasaw, Suite 204
Sallisaw, OK 74955

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SEQUOYAH COUNTY

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex rel. Jack Thorp, DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Plaintiff,

vs.

$38,990.00 CASH,

JAMES ALEXANDER PURYEAR,
Potential Claimant.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA NOTICE OF SEIZURE AND FORFEITURE
STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO:

JAMES ALEXANDER PURYEAR
5911 EDSALL RD., APT. 1004
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22304

And all others claiming an interest in the above described property, namely:

$38,990.00 CASH

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Title 63 O.S.A. Sec. 2-503, et. seq., of the seizure and intended forfeiture of the above-described property by the State of Oklahoma and any other party in interest or claimant thereto, may file a verified answer with the Clerk of the District Court of Sequoyah County, Oklahoma claiming the said property and by serving a copy of such claim upon the District Attorney of Sequoyah County, Oklahoma.

Dated this 25th day of February, 2021.

Jack Thorp, District Attorney
(Signed by Jack Thorp)
120 E. Chickasaw, Suite 204
Sallisaw, OK 74955

PUBLIC NOTICE

Dish Wireless proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a top height of 179 feet on a 161-foot building at the approx. vicinity of 5375 Duke Street, Alexandria, City of 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, Katelyn Belzner, k.belzner@trileaf.com, Towson, MD 21286, 410-853-7128.

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