Need for speed safety

**City to implement automated cameras in school zones**
*BY OLIVIA ANDERSON*

Alexandria school zones are about to become safer – and under more surveillance.

In an effort to bolster traffic safety in the city, the Alexandria Police Department will deploy five speed cameras in various school zones early next year. Each camera will be placed along a roadway and will automatically record speed limit violations, after which an officer will deny or affirm the violation and issue a citation of up to $100.

“The city has known for a long time that we keep people safe by engineering our streets in a way that encourages safe use of our streets, but also enforcement is a big piece of it,” Yon Lambert, director of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, said. “...It’s an important component to how people move around the city.”

Approximately $490,000 is allocated in the city’s budget toward the automated speed camera program.

The approval of the cameras follows an incident earlier this year in which a 9-year-old Alexandria child was struck by a car on the sidewalk near Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 IB School and subsequently hospitalized with serious but non-life-threatening injuries.

But before that, in 2020, the Commonwealth of Virginia passed a law that allows localities to install speed cameras in school and work zones. In 2021, APD then implemented a pilot program on North Beauregard Street to examine whether automated speed cameras would be viable in the city. The study revealed

**Future of Cameron Run**

**NOVA Parks incurs net loss from park, releases upcoming goals for the site**
*BY OLIVIA ANDERSON*

How to optimize the use of Cameron Run Regional Park is an issue that has-be deviled Alexandria residents, city staff and elected leaders for years.

City Council considered wrestling control of the 26-acre tract of open space away from the Northern Virginia Regional Parks Authority back in 2017, but instead opted to renew the city’s pact with the regional entity for another decade. Though improvements have been made in recent years and use of the facility has expanded to winter as well as summer, opinion is still divided on where long-term control of the park should reside.

Alexandria city staff are preparing to engage with residents to receive input on long-term plans for the park, while NVRPA’s recently released 2023-2027 Strategic Plan also includes a stated goal of engaging the “public in visioning the future of Cameron Run in coordination with the City by 2025.”

Located at 4001 Eisenhower Ave., Cameron Run features offerings such as miniature golf, batting cages, picnic shelters and Great Waves Waterpark. As of 2018, the park also offers a winter event called Ice and Lights, an outdoor experience open from November to January that includes light displays and an ice skating rink.

While Cameron Run is popular and serves more than 100,000 people per year, its history also involves hiccups. Last year, for instance, 60,000 gallons of chlorine from Great Waves Waterpark accidentally flooded the nearby Lake Cook, killing multiple animal species and
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Monique Miles sues Virginia attorney general’s office

Alexandria resident Monique Miles, who briefly served as deputy attorney general of government operations and transactions for Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares, is suing her former employer’s office for defamation.

Filed last week in Richmond Circuit Court, the complaint alleges that Miyares and four other colleagues, Charles Slemp III, Darrell Jordan, Kljarie Kilgore and Victoria LaCivita, have harmed her professional career and reputation after telling the media she resigned from her new position and was not transparent during initial interviews.

The lawsuit seeks $1 million in damages.

“As a result of the defamatory actions of the Defendants, Plaintiff has been damaged in her professional reputation, has lost active clients, and has had to repeatedly attempt to rehabilitate her reputation among both the general public and the judiciary, before whom she practices her profession,” the complaint reads.

Miles founded Old Towne Associates, P.C., a law firm in the city focused on employment law and civil litigation, in 2013.

Earlier this year, Miles separated from the attorney general’s office after the Washington Post uncovered several of Miles’ Facebook posts supporting U.S. capitol rioters on Jan. 6., 2021 and asserting that Donald Trump won the 2020 election.

“News Flash: Patriots have stormed the Capitol. No surprise. The deep state has awoken the sleeping giant. Patriots are not taking this lying down. We are awake, ready and will fight for our rights by any means necessary,” Miles wrote.

Although the Post reported that she resigned, Miles alleged that she was in fact terminated. According to the complaint, Slemp and Jordan told Miles in a meeting that she was fired and had no other option but to resign.

Miles alleged in the complaint that Slemp later texted Miles thanking her for resigning, to which she responded that she did not resign.

In a statement to the Post, LaCivita said the office plans to fight the lawsuit and “is confident that our legal position is strong.”

-Spencer Anderson

Suspect charged in double shooting

The Alexandria Police Department announced Monday that Francis Rose, 27, has been charged with two counts of second-degree murder following a July 16 burglary turned double homicide in the city’s West End.

Rose is officially charged with the murders of Adrian DeJesus Rivera Guzman, 48, and Juan Carlos Anaya Hernandez, 24. In addition to the two counts of second-degree murder, Rose has been charged with two counts of firearm use in commission of a felony, according to APD.

On the morning of July 16 at approximately 7:30 a.m., APD was called to the 100 block of Century Drive for a report of shots fired.

Rose was arrested on the day of the incident, according to APD, and continues to be held at the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center in Alexandria.

-Hannah Conley

Hourly parking rates change

Starting Sept. 7, the city will increase hourly rates on select residential blocks with pay by phone restrictions and reduce the hourly rate at the Courthouse Garage on nights and weekends, according to an update from the city.

To encourage visitors to park away from the blocks that become crowded, the city will increase the hourly parking rates from $1.75 to $3 an hour. The two-hour time limit remains unchanged and guests can still park for free if they have a guest permit, according to Katye North, division chief of Mobility Services.

The hourly rate at the Courthouse Garage on nights and weekends will be reduced from $2.50 to $1 an hour. The city hopes this change will decrease the number of visitors who use on-street parking.

“Over the next few months, we’ll continue to monitor the data for these blocks and the garage to see if it’s making an impact and adjust as needed,” North said.

For more information, visit the city’s website, which includes an overview of the Residential Pay by Phone Parking Program as well as an overview of parking in Old Town.

-Mike McDonald

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Youth in the City of Alexandria’s Teenswork program celebrated the end of their six-week summer working experience in a ceremony held in Nannie J. Lee Center on Aug. 18.

This year’s Teenswork program, which began on July 11 and ended Aug. 18, placed 170 students ages 14 to 21 within Alexandria non-profit and government agencies so that they could get paid working experience. Youth were employed at worksites such as Community Lodgings, Alexandria City Public Schools, Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Senior Services of Alexandria and the City of Alexandria.

Students in the program worked as salesmen, childcare workers, office administrators, event planners, peer advisors, recreation center employees and more. The program provided students with $11 per hour pay for up to 30 hours each week.

Teenswork paired each participant with a Youth Employment Counselor who assisted them in successfully completing the program. Youth Employment Counselors and Katrina Ashmore, director of the Workforce Development Center, were present for the Teenswork closing ceremony.

At the ceremony, each student received a certificate of completion and a letter from Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson. Councilor Alyia Gaskins spoke to youth about her experience working at age 14 and Jaqueline Tucker from the Race and Social Equity office encouraged the students to continue to pursue their dreams.

Several youth from the program also received awards for their accomplishments during the summer; Hannah Gibson won the “Stand Out Award,” Vanessa Armah won the “Extra Mile Award” and Karim Aly won the “Problem Solver Award.”

Learn more about the Teenswork program at www.alexandriava.gov/WorkforceDevelopment.

- lhardy@alextimes.com

ACPS school year begins

Alexandria City Public Schools welcomed back students on Aug. 22. Superintendent Gregory Hutchings, Ed.D., who will end his tenure on Aug. 31, sent out a welcome back release to ACPS students and parents.

In the release, Hutchings noted some important changes ACPS has made for the upcoming school year. The first change was designing a new website, which according to the release “provides easy access to all the information families may need and is also stylistically aligned with our e-newsletters, including ACPS Express.”

The other major change made by ACPS is the implementation of the new app ParentSquare, which will allow for better communication between parents, the division and school teachers all in one place. ParentSquare also features an instant two-way translation feature, according to the release.

The release also mentions that “security and Wi-Fi upgrades have also been made with an emphasis on well-being, school safety and security throughout the division.”

ACPS will continue to offer weekly onsite voluntary testing for COVID-19. COVID-19 tests will come at no cost to ACPS families wanting to register their students for testing.

As Hutchings steps down, he will be replaced by Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D. on Sept 1, who is currently ACPS’ chief of human resources. Kay-Wyatt will serve as interim superintendent until a permanent replacement is found.

-kmcdeadon@alextimes.com
Locals like @activwall had their best month ever thanks to a trending TikTok video.

ActivWall designs and manufactures beautiful moving walls, windows, and doors. In April 2022, ActivWall had its highest-grossing month of sales ever when a product demo became a trending TikTok video. Now they're using TikTok to attract dealers and offer their custom-made products to customers across the country. It's just another example of how Virginia business is booming on TikTok.
SPEED CAMERAS FROM | 1 that 65% of vehicles drove above the posted 35-miles-per-hour speed limit. The highest recorded speed was 69 miles per hour.

During the pandemic, vehicle volumes decreased while speeds increased, according to city staff.

“Once the legislature approved speed cameras, the city began to methodically use data-driven [tests] to move in the direction of seeing that they're viable,” Lambert said. “And once we determined that the technology was viable, City Council, in adoption of last year's budget, told the city manager to move forward with implementation of the speed camera program.”

The camera program is part of Vision Zero, a controversial initiative with the stated goal of eliminating all traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2028. The concept began in Sweden in 1997, and proposes that traffic deaths can be mitigated and prevented altogether through proper precautions such as education and enforcement.

According to the city's website, Vision Zero “is a multidisciplinary, multi-national traffic safety concept that aims to achieve a transportation system with no deaths and serious injuries” with the specific intention of “saving lives on Alexandria's streets.”

Speed cameras, Lambert said, are part of the Vision Zero goal, which T&ES has partnered with APD to develop.

“The way we approach Vision Zero is through a systems approach, so we are doing things with respect to both education, engineering and enforcement,” Lambert said. “[We've] worked closely over the years on a number of different projects and programs to make sure that we're keeping residents safe.”

The City of Alexandria joins Arlington County and the City of Fairfax in implementing this program. Speed cameras are also common in Washington, D.C. and Maryland.

Lambert said T&ES is following a data-driven process to determine where the five speed cameras will be located throughout the city. This includes examining vehicle speeds, volume of traffic, number of students walking to schools and equity issues.

Once those locations are selected, the city will provide updates at the Sept. 26 Traffic and Parking Board meeting and at the Oct. 11 City Council legislative meeting.

APD Lieutenant Delton Goodrum said staff are working on selecting a vendor to supply the technology that will automatically issue tickets and send them to APD for vetting. Sworn officers then review the tickets and determine whether they are legitimate, and if so, send them to the violator. Factors such as inaccurate timing on the camera or technical defects could void a ticket, he noted.

“We have two officers that are responsible for going through the videos and looking at the citation and ensuring that the citation was issued legitimately,” Goodrum said.

Staff are also in the process of determining how much to issue per citation. State code allows officers to begin enforcement if the violator is at least 10 miles over the posted speed limit.

APD will then present the findings to City Council, which will vote on the fine amounts.

“The program ultimately is for safety. Obviously, we have to have some teeth in the program; ultimately, we want to keep the kids and the walkers safe and we want compliance,” Goodrum said. “We already know that half of drivers are gonna automatically comply because they're gonna be paying attention ... and then the other half may need a little reminder. That's where the citations come in.”

The speed camera program has yielded mixed responses from residents. One resident, Daniel Childress, wrote on the I Love Alexandria Facebook page that speed cameras are the city's attempt at a money grab.

“Speed cameras are just for revenue generation, before long they'll have them more places,” Childress wrote. “Speed humps would be just as effective but do not generate revenue.”

“More revenue collection and surveillance. Lovely,” another resident, Jesse Gonzalez, wrote.

But arguably, the larger response has come from residents expressing support for the cameras. According to Lambert, the city most often hears from community members encouraging them to implement safety improvements, particularly around this time of year “when children are going back to schools [and] parents want to make sure that the speeds vehicles are traveling around schools come down.”

The city has been working closely with Alexandria City Public Schools, the School Board and the Parent-Teacher Association, all of which have expressed support for cameras.

The main goal is to protect both school-aged children and general community members by following the relevant data, which Lambert said explicitly shows that speed cameras can reduce the number of crashes by more than 50%.

“What we also know from the data is that speed cameras can help reduce the number of crashes,” Lambert said. “From our perspective, we think that up to this point it’s a proven safety tool and that’s the kind of thing we want to put in place to make sure we’re keeping kids safe as they’re trying to get to school.”

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PHOTO/OLIVIA ANDERSON/CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

The city will implement five speed enforcement cameras in select school zones early next year. Per state code, the maximum fine for speed limit violations is $100.
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Ice and Lights is a winter event that NOVA Parks began four years ago in order to utilize the park year-round.

NOVA PARKS FROM | 1

resuscitating a larger conversation about the park’s management and future.

Currently NOVA Parks oversees Cameron Run, but several years ago City Council considered pulling the plug on the regional facility and using it for something else entirely. Originally established in 1981, the lease between the city and NOVA Parks was set to expire in 2021. NOVA Parks then requested a 40-year extension in 2017 in order to implement more than $7.5 million in improvements, including a lazy river and dog park. Although council denied the 40-year extension, it approved an extension in 2018 through December 2028.

During those discussions, the Park and Recreation Commission advised that the city should assume management of the park once its lease ends in 2028. According to Gina Baum, who served on the commission from 2011 to 2022 – three years of which were as chair, many community members came forward during that time expressing concerns regarding a perceived lack of general maintenance at the site and the fact that it did not generate revenue for the city and its residents.

A townhome community adjacent to Great Waves, called Townes at Cameron Parke, reported multiple incidents of water park visitors parking in their driveways and garbage being dumped in the park behind the townhomes. The commission also received complaints that NOVA Parks removed important tree species and allowed invasive species to thrive, Baum said.

Additionally, at the time Cameron Park only offered summer activities, leaving some residents frustrated with the park’s lack of off-season use.

“We’ve had a lot of complaints from the community,” Baum said. “… We just got too much feedback from the community that there were issues with [NOVA Parks] being the stewards of that land.”

Since those initial discussions, NOVA Parks has implemented winter events, such as Ice and Lights, to utilize the space year-round. The city also acquired the parcel behind the townhome community and transformed it into Lake Cook, thus mitigating much of the garbage dumping.

While Baum acknowledged that Cameron Run is in better shape than it was several years ago, she still believes the city should take back the land and invest in community resources. One idea is creating a 50-meter swimming pool, Baum suggested; another might be an indoor field.

“Hopefully it’s getting better. I know people are happier with the skating rink and the lights, but again, it’s still a huge piece of land and it’s not getting its highest and best use right now, that’s for sure,” she said.

Over the past year, NOVA Parks has invested $398,219 in structural improvements toward the wave pool and nearly $98,816 to Ice and Lights, according to Paul Gilbert, NOVA Parks’ executive director.

After subtracting the total park capital expenses, totaling $497,035, from the net operating income, totaling $168,653, Cameron Run incurred a net loss of approximately $328,382 in the past year, Gilbert said.

“Now, that’s not a bad thing. We’re making a really wonderful park that serves more than 100,000 people a year. That’s a very good thing,” Gilbert said.

In the coming year Gilbert said that NOVA Parks anticipates spending around $255,000 in renovations to the smaller, low-depth play pool and at least $75,000 on Ice and Lights.

There were several stated goals that accompanied the lease extension in 2018. The first was to implement Ice and Lights, which happened one year before it was required and has been growing ever since, Gilbert noted. Another was to build a small rectangular field and sports court in the corner of the parking lot that can be used year-round. This project, which the City of Alexandria will manage, is currently in the works.

The newly released strategic plan calls for NOVA Parks to engage with the city regarding the future of Cameron Run by 2025. According to Gilbert, that date was driven by the lease’s 2028 expiration date and recognizes that whatever plan the two parties decide on might take a few years to implement.

Between the batting cages, mini golf, water park, climbing structure and winter events, Gilbert opined that Cameron Run is serving the public well and will only improve with the plan.

“That’s a lot of issues packed into that space and it’s year-round. So I suspect it will be difficult to find a combination of activities that will be more impactful than we have right now. That certainly is an issue for future planning with the city,” Gilbert said.

Although the city will talk with NOVA Parks to discuss the park’s future by 2025, that also marks the year it will begin a planning process with the community to determine Cameron Run’s priorities. The planning process will establish a budget in the event that council does not renew NOVA Parks’ lease come 2028.

According to Jack Browand, deputy director of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, this planning process will ensure that the city is set up for success in whatever direction it decides, including the possible “nuclear option” of shift-
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NOVA PARKS

If NOVA Parks was no longer to operate it, the city would have a plan in place and the funding available to move forward, whether that’s operated as it is, completely deconstructed to be something entirely different,” Browand said. “And, on the other end, it could be that the best use of that space is to manage it the way that it is.”

As of now, it is unclear what the future of Cameron Run looks like beyond 2028. Some have argued that Alexandria should assume operations once the lease ends, and others argue that NOVA Parks has stepped up and is successfully managing the space.

Browand pointed out that if the city were to take over and deconstruct the site, it would have to be modified significantly. What NOVA Parks built over the past 40 years would not be able to be replicated exactly, due to various cost and infrastructure restrictions.

He also highlighted that several years ago the city came up with several potential alternatives to the use of Cameron Run, ranging from tearing the park down entirely and returning it to its natural state to implementing ball fields. All of these options reached concept-level and their estimated costs range from hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars. However, NOVA Parks has held up its end of the deal since council extended its lease in 2018.

“They have lived up to the agreements that we made for the allowances for either them to implement programs that utilize the facility throughout the year, or allowing the city the opportunity to go in. Those have all been honored,” Browand said.

NOVA Parks and the city have not engaged in preliminary talks about the park’s future just yet, but Gilbert anticipates that the conversations will take place soon. As for the city’s planning process, next steps will be based on council and community priorities.

While the site’s best use is unclear – whether that’s an indoor recreation center, outdoor pool, housing space or kept as is – Browand said that the right decision will reveal itself with time and more conversations. Right now, it’s just too early to tell.

“It’s too far off. We’re two fiscal years away from starting the process,” Browand said. “There’s been a lot that’s been going on since [the initial discussions] and I think there’s still a lot to be determined as to what our needs will be two years from now.”

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Classical songs, modern meanings

Alexandria Symphony to interweave old pieces with new works

BY LIANA HARDY

One year ago, conductor Negin Khwalpak and her husband Hamid Habib Zada fled Afghanistan for the United States with only the clothes on their back. This November, Khwalpak and Zada will both perform at Alexandria’s Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall for hundreds of audience members, alongside the Alex-

Jim Ross, the ASO’s music director, interweaves different stories from classical and contemporary works into ASO concerts.

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ASO FROM | 10

andria Symphony Orchestra.

Khwalpak, the only female conductor – who led the only all-female orchestra – in Afghanistan’s history, will conduct two Afghan pop songs from the 70s and 80s in the ASO’s “Afghan Days, Arabian Nights” concert this fall. Khwalpak’s husband Zada will play the tabla, an Afghan classical music instrument, and poets will recite Afghan poetry while the ASO performs the well-known symphonic suite Scheherazade, conducted by ASO Music Director Jim Ross.

The ASO is known for mixing the traditional with the nontraditional in their concert repertoire – a practice that most professional orchestras do not explore, according to Ross. Their 2022-2023 concert season, which starts in October and lasts until April, reflects this mixture.

“The title of the season is just all about telling stories through music,” ASO Executive Director George Hanson said. “I would say that the calling card of ASO is that we present an extraordinarily diverse palette, as in colorful palate, of music – including the traditional, but we do it in untraditional ways.”

The ASO will begin the season with their “All Hearts Vie for Joy!” concert, which combines one of the most well-known pieces in classical music history, Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, with Vaughan Williams’ Fantasia and contemporary poet Tracy K. Smith’s poetry, and with the musical performances of Khwalpak and Zada, as well as the other Afghan refugees they represent. Scheherazade, which is based on the story of “One Thousand and One Nights,” depicts a woman who must come up with fantastical, continuous tales every night to please her husband, a king who will kill his wives if he gets bored with them.

Ross wants to pair this story with the stories of female Afghans told through classical poetry, and with the musical performances of Khwalpak and Zada, so that the piece will better resonate with the audience.

“There’s this kind of horrible violence inherent in that relationship that doesn’t show up much in the piece, because the piece just sounds so imaginative and beautiful. And that’s because it’s sort of depicting the stories themselves rather than the life and the fear of the woman who’s needing to tell them,” Ross said. “So my idea was to take the first half of the program and connect the idea of women and potential abusive relationships somehow, and kind of put that in constructive contrast with the Rimsky-Korsakov in the second half.”

Ross also wants the ASO to connect with wider audiences through its inventive concerts, creating “big tent” events that will include underrepresented communities and attract audience members who are not necessarily traditional symphony-goers or classical music-lovers.

“The great thing about these concerts, or any concert in a way, is it can bring people who all have different reasons for being there. Like in November, I’m hoping we have at least 200 to 300 people there at the concert who are only there because there’s going to be some Persian spoken at the concert, and the two Afghan refugees are people that are kind of like them,” Ross said.

According to Hanson, the orchestra has already begun to attract more diverse audiences, with fall 2021 ticket sales surpassing pre-pandemic sales due to a wave of new audience members. Hanson credits the recent successes to ASO’s new programming, which features a greater diversity among its musicians and pieces.

“We saw lots of people we had never seen before. I mean, new faces in the sense of people we didn’t know, but also a significantly more diverse audience. And that was because of the diversity of our programming,” Hanson said.

Ross’ unique repertoire can pose a challenge to musicians, due to the difficulty of combining so many different pieces into one concert program. Claudia Chudacoff, ASO’s concertmaster and first violin, said that she is often surprised when Ross can mesh older classical works with an array of contemporary pieces.

“It especially resonates with me because my dad is from Honduras and my mom is from Puerto Rico, and my dad, his dream was always to be a professional musician. But there just weren’t those opportunities in Honduras, so he ended up doing something that he’s not passionate about,” Woods said. “And my mom remembers seeing a girl carrying a violin case to school, and my mom would walk to school and she would just think, ‘Wow, I’d really love to do that, but we could never afford that.’ So it’s really meaningful and cool that she had a daughter, me, that ended up playing the violin.”

Ross hopes that with the ASO as a model, the future of classical music will be more inclusive – of both different audiences and diverse musical works – and embrace messages that connect with contemporary audiences and experiences.

“I would like our arms to be seen as really wide open,” Ross said. “It’s great that classical music has changed a lot over the last couple of years – thankfully, in the direction of trying to make sure that we are truly inclusive in who’s on stage, what we’re playing, who we can justifiably attract to be in our audience and try and make everybody feel comfortable.”

While the ASO Sympatico program had fewer participants last year due to the pandemic – only 45 students were able to attend the all-virtual music practices – the program hopes to return to 100-plus students now that COVID-19 is less of a risk.

For ASO musicians like Marilisa Woods, the ASO’s second violin, the ASO Sympatico program is an extraordinary element of the orchestra that reflects their core values of inclusivity and community engagement – and also strikes a more personal chord.

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an Rite of Spring and an overture by Cuban composer Guido López-Gavilán.

According to Ross, the ASO’s goal is to connect treasured pieces from the past to world events occurring in present time.

“I’m taking something that’s old, mixing it in a hopefully creative way with things that tie us to our own time, just to make sure that we hear pieces as something that really connect to who we are right now. Not just historical reenactments, let’s say, of what the piece might have meant 200 years ago or 100 years ago when it was written,” Ross said.

For the “Afghan Days, Arabian Nights” concert, Ross wants to connect Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov’s 19th-century piece Scheherazade, with the stories of Khwalpak and Zada, as well as the other Afghan refugees they represent. Scheherazade, which is based on the story of “One Thousand and One Nights,” depicts a woman who must come up with fantastical, continuous tales every night to please her husband, a king who will kill his wives if he gets bored with them.

Ross wants to pair this story with the stories of female Afghans told through classical poetry, and with the musical performances of Khwalpak and Zada, so that the piece will better resonate with the audience.

“There’s this kind of horrible violence inherent in that relationship that doesn’t show up much in the piece, because the piece just sounds so imaginative and beautiful. And that’s because it’s sort of depicting the stories themselves rather than the life and the fear of the woman who’s needing to tell them,” Ross said. “So my idea was to take the first half of the program and connect the idea of women and potential abusive relationships somehow, and kind of put that in constructive contrast with the Rimsky-Korsakov in the second half.”

Ross also wants the ASO to connect with wider audiences through its inventive concerts, creating “big tent” events that will include underrepresented communities and attract audience members who are not necessarily traditional symphony-goers or classical music-lovers.

“The great thing about these concerts, or any concert in a way, is it can bring people who all have different reasons for being there. Like in November, I’m hoping we have at least 200 to 300 people there at the concert who are only there because there’s going to be some Persian spoken at the concert, and the two Afghan refugees are people that are kind of like them,” Ross said.

According to Hanson, the orchestra has already begun to attract more diverse audiences, with fall 2021 ticket sales surpassing pre-pandemic sales due to a wave of new audience members. Hanson credits the recent successes to ASO’s new programming, which features a greater diversity among its musicians and pieces.

“We saw lots of people we had never seen before. I mean, new faces in the sense of people we didn’t know, but also a significantly more diverse audience. And that was because of the diversity of our programming,” Hanson said.

Ross’ unique repertoire can pose a challenge to musicians, due to the difficulty of combining so many different pieces into one concert program. Claudia Chudacoff, ASO’s concertmaster and first violin, said that she is often surprised when Ross can mesh older classical works with an array of contemporary pieces.

“It especially resonates with me because my dad is from Honduras and my mom is from Puerto Rico, and my dad, his dream was always to be a professional musician. But there just weren’t those opportunities in Honduras, so he ended up doing something that he’s not passionate about,” Woods said. “And my mom remembers seeing a girl carrying a violin case to school, and my mom would walk to school and she would just think, ‘Wow, I’d really love to do that, but we could never afford that.’ So it’s really meaningful and cool that she had a daughter, me, that ended up playing the violin.”

Ross hopes that with the ASO as a model, the future of classical music will be more inclusive – of both different audiences and diverse musical works – and embrace messages that connect with contemporary audiences and experiences.

“I would like our arms to be seen as really wide open,” Ross said. “It’s great that classical music has changed a lot over the last couple of years – thankfully, in the direction of trying to make sure that we are truly inclusive in who’s on stage, what we’re playing, who we can justifiably attract to be in our audience and try and make everybody feel comfortable.”

-ihardy@alextimes.com
Obituary

Kitty Louise (Boland) Ray

On Aug. 20, six days before her 70th birthday, our beloved Kitty Louise (Boland) Ray of Alexandria, Va., passed from this life to the next embraced by her three loving daughters, Megan, Kelsey and Colleen, and her husband of 50 years, Jim. She died at Virginia Hospital Center due to lung complications caused by a new chemotherapy treatment she started in July. Kitty had survived metastatic breast cancer for 30 years, enduring many difficult treatments and side effects with courage, determination and grace. She was deeply grateful to her family and friends who lovingly supported her on this journey, many through the "Kitty's Crusaders" webpage, and to the many doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who cared for her throughout the years.

Kitty was a kind, warm, friendly, open-hearted, compassionate and generous person. She was a "real" person in the sense of the "Velveteen Rabbit," her favorite book. She made friends easily and highly valued her friendships, maintaining many for several decades. She was also very funny, often showing a quirky sense of humor. She delighted in making family and friends laugh, occasionally shocking them with her limericks. She was also a great listener and provider of comfort for all, although she could get feisty when she sensed an injustice.

Kitty was the proud mother of Megan Jane Nolton (Devlin), Kelsey Ann Horowitz (Nick), and Colleen Ray Corday (Cameron), all of Alexandria, Va. The greatest joy of her life in recent years has been her grandchildren: Isla June Nolton, Olivia Kitty Nolton, Ruby Aurora Nolton, Amelia Rose Horowitz, Finn Calder Nolton, Miles Alexander Corday, and soon to be born Baby Corday. She cherished spending time with them, and they adored their "Gaga." She enjoyed the countless photos of them taken by their mothers, and the many artworks produced by them and their mothers. Her home's walls were covered with paintings and drawings created especially for her.

Kitty and Jim were born in the same maternity hospital in Albany, N.Y. in 1952, and became sweethearts in high school. They married on Aug. 12, 1972 and moved to Ithaca, N.Y. where Kitty worked for Cornell University while Jim attended college. In 1974, they moved to Alexandria, Va. Kitty earned accolades working for the U.S. House of Representatives and later for the U.S. Senate, while Jim attended law school and began his legal career. In 1982, Kitty decided to become a full-time mom and dedicate herself to building a loving family with Jim. She threw herself into every activity that involved or interested her daughters, including school groups, Girl Scouts, sports, arts and crafts, and theater, always committed to raising caring, strong, creative and well-rounded children. Through these activities, she met other mothers who became her dear friends for the rest of her life.

In 2000, Jim opened a new law firm in Old Town Alexandria with Kitty as the office manager. She contributed hugely to the firm's success with her delightful, funny and personable manner with clients. She was compelled to retire in 2015 when she suffered an aggressive cancer recurrence, but she remained the office manager Emeritus for the next seven years and came to the office whenever she could to play with the grandchildren.

Kitty was an avid reader, theater patron, limerick author, art lover, and ever-curious follower of current events. She and Jim were members of a community book club for more than 30 years. Her passion for books led her to steward a Little Free Library ("Kitty's Book Nook") that Jim built for her in front of their home. Next to the library is Gaga's Reading Bench. She delighted in seeing neighborhood parents sitting on the bench reading books to their children.

Kitty also loved to travel with Jim, around the U.S. and in Europe. Among their great joys was bringing their daughters along on many memorable trips in the hope of passing the travel bug onto them. Kitty strongly believed that travel is the best educational experience. They had long planned a grand trip to London for the whole family, including grandchildren, in August 2020, but regrettably canceled it due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Kitty had been hoping that the trip could be revived for 2023.

Kitty desperately wanted to continue sharing her spirit and life force with her family and friends, but after 30 years of constant battering from cancer treatments, her body could take no more.

In addition to her husband, daughters, sons-in-law and grandchildren, Kitty is survived by sisters Julie Pickup (Walter) of Monee, Ill., Patricia Pinchback of Albany, N.Y., Mary (Cassie) Hollner of Denver, Colo., and Michael Boland, Sr. (Mary) of Cooperstown, N.Y. Her parents, Clarence and Dorothy Boland of Albany, N.Y., are deceased. Kitty was also considered a sister of Jim's siblings: Edward J. Ray (Mary Sue) of Cohoes, N.Y., Kathleen Marsch (Henry) of Clifton Park, N.Y., Sharon Ryan (John) of Clifton Park, N.Y., Kevin Ray (Mary) of Clifton Park, N.Y., and Sheila Hollner (William) of Clifton Park, N.Y.

Family and friends are invited to share in the celebration of Kitty's life at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W Braddock Rd., Alexandria, Va. 22302 on Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022 during the hours of 2:00-6:00 P.M. A funeral service will be conducted at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Rd., Alexandria, Va. 22308 on Monday, August 29, 2022 at 11:00 A.M. Burial will be at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St, Alexandria, Va. 22302 on a plot selected by Kitty last year.

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Learn the importance of well-child visits
BY BRANDPOINT

As back-to-school season gets underway, it’s important to ensure that your child is ready for the school year, both physically and emotionally, by scheduling a well-child visit.

Annual well-child visits are doctor appointments for preventive health services, which are essential for ensuring a child’s growth and tracking developmental milestones. The well-child visit is also the time for routine immunizations to prevent diseases like measles, polio, hepatitis B, chickenpox, whooping cough and other serious diseases.

“Like vaccines, which prevent physical health conditions, speaking with your child’s primary care physician regularly about mental health concerns is also an essential part of overall preventive care,” Rhonda Randall, D.O. and chief medical officer at UnitedHealthcare, said. “Your annual well-child visit is also an opportunity to have a conversation with your child’s physician. It’s best to have these conversations when problems or warning signs first appear, so your physician can take the appropriate steps to best treat them.”

If you’re not sure what questions to ask your child’s primary care physician during an annual well-child visit, consider the following:

Ask what vaccines are appropriate for your child’s age and how to make up any that have been missed. You can refer to the list of child and adolescent vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at CDC.gov/vaccines. In addition to other childhood vaccines, both the flu and COVID-19 vaccines are recommended by the CDC for everyone six months of age and older. If you are concerned about childhood vaccines, ask the pediatrician about common side effects, which are typically very mild, such as pain or swelling at the injection site, and can include low-grade fever or rash.

Discuss changes in your child’s behavior. Some common warning signs that your child’s mental well-being isn’t where it needs to be include persistent sadness, withdrawing from or avoiding social interactions, displaying outbursts of extreme irritability, drastic changes in mood, behavior or personality, changes in eating habits, difficulty sleeping, frequent headaches or stomach aches, difficulty concentrating, changes in academic performance, and more.

It is important to make sure your child is ready for the school year by scheduling a well-child visit.

Schooltime sniffles

PHOTO/BRANDPOINT
Academic performance or avoiding or missing school. Ask for guidance on how to best support your child. Whether you have concerns about your child’s nutrition, exercise, sleeping patterns or behavioral changes, your child’s primary care physician is a great place to start. With so many young children experiencing mental and emotional health challenges, it’s important to create opportunities for them to share how they are really doing. Remember that these can be sensitive topics for your child to discuss. Empathy and patience go a long way to help children and adolescents feel listened to and comfortable.

Don’t forget to bring your sports physical forms. If your child participates in school sports, the wellness visit is an opportune time to make sure your physician is aware that your child is a student-athlete and address any concerns like nutrition, prior injuries and family history.

Ask for recommendations for other health care professionals, if needed. For example, if your child hasn’t seen the dentist in a while, if their vision screening indicates that they need to see an eye doctor or their mental health screening has raised concerns, ask which health care professionals in your plan’s network the pediatrician would recommend.

“If you haven’t already, now is the time to schedule an appointment with their pediatrician, to give your child a healthy start to the school year,” Randall said. “Regular well-child visits are essential in making sure your child is up to date on immunizations and that their developmental milestones are on track - including their mental well-being.”

These visits are essential for ensuring a child's growth and tracking developmental milestones.
Learn the 2023 design trend highlights
BY MARY ELLEN ROTONDO, MBA

As a realtor, I’m often asked about the latest trends in home design and clients always want advice for keeping their homes au courant. Design trends are fueled by lifestyle changes and customer needs. High-traffic, frequently used areas in today’s houses are changing, as many people are choosing to spend more time working and playing at home. Breakfast nooks and living rooms are now being reimagined as flex and morning rooms.

Meanwhile, home offices are here to stay and exciting approaches to patterns and furnishings are helping folks fashion their homes into sanctuaries of comfort and style. Home design concepts for 2023 are rooted in the habits and behaviors of people who utilize their homes differently today than they did prior to 2020. With 2023 on the horizon, here are some of the key design trends you will be seeing.

Kitchens
People spend a lot of time in the kitchen. It’s the heart of the home – where we prepare meals, eat and gather with our favorite people. So it’s no surprise that kitchen design is one of the most popular topics for home trends, year after year. One of the biggest design trends of 2023 is mixing materials. Designers are using multiple materials in one space to create an exciting look. This can be anything from combining wood and metal to using different types of stone or tile in a backsplash.

Alexandria-based designer Claire Schwab, founder of Claire Schwab Interior Design, said a trend to “reface” – as opposed to renovate – has gained traction over the last 12 months. Now that people are spending more time at home and don’t want the disruption or downtime in the main area of the house, an update versus a complete ‘gut’ job is easier for homeowners to digest.

According to Schwab, in the last 12 kitchen projects her team designed and executed, priorities included making room for more functional work space, such as expanding and elevating the command center/desk portion in a kitchen by adding a coffee bar or refreshment station. It also includes painting existing cabinets lighter colors, adding creative backsplashes, switching out small round knobs with interesting decorative metal pulls and adding ambient lighting under cabinets and over islands and sinks. Homeowners are opting to replace countertops with lighter-hued quartz and Caesar stone and install larger, more functional sinks.

Another popular trend in trade showrooms today is the use of bold colors. While designs of the past few years showcased ethereal whites and earthy tones, 2023 kitchen designs will feature pops of color, whether it’s a bright accent wall or colorful cabinets. If you’re not ready for such a drastic change, consider painting your island a different color than the rest of your kitchen cabinets. This is a great way to add a dash of color for subtle impact without going overboard.

Schwab advises that kitchen appliances, hands-free faucets and even voice-controlled smart cabinets in their designs. So if you want to stay on-trend, consider adding some high-tech features to your kitchen.

Baths
There is a significant shift toward innovative designs. Homeowners are looking for ways to make their bathroom feel like a luxurious spa retreat. When it comes to countertops, flooring and tiles, designers continue to gravitate toward natural materials like marble and granite.

Homeowners are also interested in incorporating unique textures and patterns into their designs. For instance, geometric tile patterns and stone mosaic accents dominate the HGTV home show circuit. These materials make a bold statement, are full of character and really define a space.

Another popular trend for 2023 is the use of mixed metals. In the past, most bathrooms were designed with one metal finish, usually chrome or brushed nickel. However, mixing different metals to create a different look is on trend now. This can be achieved by incorporating different metal finishes into cabinetry, hardware and lighting fixtures.

Lighting
Contemporary lighting fixtures can add instant ambience and rich character to any space. New 2023 trends are all about going bold with specialty lighting that incorporates color and high style. Lighting fixtures have evolved significantly in the past decade and they play a large role in any design scheme. According to Schwab, room size and ceiling height are the most important factors in selecting and placing the right fixtures, and bigger is most often better.

Schwab believes the color of the light fixture should echo the dominant color or metal tone found in a room. She advises clients to consider door or cabinet hardware in the living room or kitchen and repeat that tone in overhead or standing fixtures. For table lamp bases or shades, consider the colors in a favorite chair or a rug. Lastly, Schwab advises to choose texture when you can.

Color
As the world looks to 2023, significant change is anticipated. A distinctive change on the horizon is the 2023 Pantone Color of the Year: digital lavender. This lavender hue represents stability, serenity and digital escapism during these uncertain times. Goodbye to you, agreeable gray; we look forward to getting to know you better, digital lavender.

For more information about design trends and how to incorporate new ideas into your home, I advise clients to consult magazines and shop at home stores, such as Old Town’s Patina Polished Living, area HomeGoods or a home store and warehouse like Floor & Decor. For expert assistance and professional guidance, hiring a skilled interior design professional is a good idea.

Regardless of trends, your home décor should be a reflection of your personal sense of style and should support the way you live and work. If 2023’s purple doesn’t have a place in your space, don’t give it a second thought. If mixing metals or materials creates chaos in your mind, stick with monochromes and minimalist tableaus. Your home is your safe harbor and it should lift you up, support your lifestyle and bring you joy.

The writer is a licensed realtor with Compass in Virginia and Washington, D.C.
Enjoy living hues in your outdoor space this season

BY BRANDPOINT

As temperatures drop and seasons turn, that doesn’t mean you have to give up on the vivid blooms you love so much in your yard. Strategically adding seasonal plants that can withstand cooler weather is a great way to bring color and dimension to outdoor spaces, enhancing your curb appeal into the autumn months.

To educate and inspire, here are some simple tips, top trends and standout plants that are ideal for fall:

Pollinator plants in autumn hues

There’s no easier way to add autumn atmosphere to your entryway, walkways and flower boxes than with the warm hues of rich yellows and sunny oranges. Blooms in these colors convey happiness and warmth, making them beautifully eye-catching. Some plants in these tones are especially attractive to bees and butterflies, helping create pollinator-friendly spaces.

For example, award-winning Echinacea Artisan Yellow Ombre is a native-type prairie plant that attracts songbirds, bees and butterflies throughout the fall and into winter. It’s drought tolerant and low maintenance, making it a no-brainer for colorful autumn gardens. Another great option as the weather cools is Achillea Milly Rock Yellow Terracotta. This perennial has a breathtaking golden-orange color that is perfect for fall because it is frost tolerant, plus it attracts pollinators while resisting hungry rabbits and deer.

Moody blues are trending for fall

While yellow and orange are quintessential fall colors, you can add an on-trend element to your outdoor space with Spreading Pansy Cool Wave Blue. The dark and moody blue hue plays nicely when combined with a jewel-toned autumn palette. It is also a standout choice by itself, reflecting the cooler weather, crisp air and clear night skies associated with the fall months.

The vibrant shade of solid blue is beautiful in planters and hanging baskets, as well as in landscaping and window boxes. This sun-loving variety is a spreading pansy, meaning it can serve as a great groundcover, as well. You can enjoy this pansy in fall, and with su-
FALL COLORS FROM | 16

Overwintering hardiness, it’s the earliest pansy to return in the spring.

Create dimension through floral shapes

Color is one important aspect of landscape design, but to really elevate your outdoor appeal, consider dimension as well. Creating variables in plants through shape and texture adds visual interest, bringing new depth to a space. To create this dimension, mix florals with greenery and don’t be afraid of nontraditional flower shapes.

The perfect example is Celosia, which features blooms in unique shapes such as plumes, spikes or wavy crests. You can create any outdoor aesthetic you desire with varieties available in yellow, orange, red and dark purple. Each adds texture and dimension, pairing well with mums and other popular autumn florals.

Whether it’s containers, window boxes or several strategic places in your landscaping, you can update your home for the fall season and boost your curb appeal with fall flowers. A dash of color and texture will help your home be a standout on the block.

Add autumn to your entryway, walkways and flower boxes with warm hues of rich yellows and sunny oranges.

HOME OF THE WEEK

A new level of luxury Old Town living

Welcome to a new level of luxury living in Old Town. One opportunity remains to own an exceptionally rare new construction luxury townhouse centrally located in the Northwest quadrant of historic Old Town Alexandria. 601 N. Alfred Street features 4 bedrooms and 4.5 baths within four levels. Owners will enjoy luxury finishes throughout the home, plus a roof terrace, main level patio and private parking for two cars. This townhome offers gorgeous natural light through oversized windows on three sides.

Opportunities to entertain guests abound—first on the main level with an open living and dining area, eat-in kitchen and a private patio—perfect for al fresco dining. Continue to impress guests with gorgeous views from the private roof terrace. Just blocks from the Potomac River and all the shops and dining options that Old Town has to offer! This home is a short distance to the Braddock Road Metro station, only 3 traffic lights to National Airport, and a short distance to National Landing, Amazon HQ2, the Pentagon and Washington, D.C. Call us for a tour today!

HOMES ADVERTORIAL

AT A GLANCE

Address:
601 N. Alfred St.,
Alexandria, 22314

Price: $1,799,000

Square feet: 2,548

Bedrooms: 4

Bathrooms: 4.5

Year built: 2022

Contact:
Bonnie Rivkin &
Courtney Rivkin
therivkingroup@compass.com
rivkinresidential.com
703-598-7788
Our View __________

Hoping for a better year

As with the turn of the calendar year, each new school year also begins with hope. On an individual level, students usually have fresh supplies and an outfit or even a new jacket to wear.

The beginning of a school year should arrive with students feeling a mixture of excitement and nervousness. Unfortunately, in Alexandria City Public Schools, particularly the two high school campuses, far too many students have undoubtedly approached this school year with a different emotion – fear – that is not conducive to learning.

There have been many violent incidents in recent years that have either taken place within schools, during school hours or have involved ACPS students. Those range from a student being arrested inside what was then known as T.C. Williams High School for allegedly committing a double murder elsewhere, an accusation of rape, ongoing violent clashes between groups of students that appear to be gang-related and the arrest of a student on school property with a gun.

The violence culminated in May with the murder of an Alexandria City High School student during school hours when a riot erupted in the parking lot outside the McDonald’s in Bradlee Shopping Center. Dozens of students were off ACHS’ two campuses during their lunch break in violation of that school’s stated policy.

It would be reasonable for students and their parents to be asking, "Is this year going to be any better?" – and to be fearful of the answer.

We are at a strange point in time as a nation, a city and a school system. Abuses by some police officers in recent years reached a flashpoint with the murder of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis. The aftermath of this tragedy continues to reverberate; police morale and staffing levels in Alexandria have combined with greater distrust of police by Black residents in particular.

Distrust of police played a role in City Council’s decision to remove police officers from ACPS at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year. Following a series of violent incidents in the first six weeks of school, the officers were temporarily reinstated. What security will look like in ACPS long-term is still under discussion, which means security measures for the 2022-23 school year are still in flux.

Additionally, the Alexandria Police Department earlier this year declared that ongoing staffing shortages had necessitated a reduction of services from police. The implications of this staffing shortage and policy shift are unclear at this time.

Because Alexandria offered either no or extremely limited in-person learning for more than one full school year during the COVID-19 pandemic, socialization gaps among students, particularly those moving from middle school into high school, may have played a role in the almost daily violence last year within ACPS. That factor, at least, should be somewhat better one year later.

So welcome back to teachers and students. We hope the upcoming school year is one filled with learning and achievement for all students.

But to learn and teach, our schools must be safe. The most important question everyone involved with ACPS – from the interim superintendent to the School Board to City Council to parents, teachers and students – should be asking is, "Are we doing our absolute best to ensure that all students are safe on all ACPS campuses this year?"

All other concerns or goals are secondary to the need for safety.

Opinion

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

Photo of the Week

Floods at the end of King Street early Monday morning.

Your Views __________

Support for rapid buses on Duke Street

To the editor:

In the “Our View” column of last week’s paper, the Times editors noted that Duke Street is bursting and that the issues of congestion and safety on the East-West arterial must be addressed, but cautioned the city to take care and “don’t strangle Duke Street.”

I heartily agree that something must be done. Duke Street is already in a sorry state for everyone who uses it, and if things are bad now, just wait until the corridor adds all the homes and jobs planned for sites like West End. For better or worse, the corridor is on a trajectory for continued growth.

We need to plan for that growth, and Duke Street in Motion presents us a golden opportunity to do so by adding dedicated bus lanes. Buses in dedicated lanes can move many more people much more quickly than if the same number of people drove themselves or rode buses in mixed traffic. Setting up a true Bus Rapid Transit route will allow many new residents, and maybe some existing Alexandrians, to make trips along Duke that they would otherwise likely drive for. Frequent, fast buses are transportation that people will choose to ride. This frees up traffic for everyone on Duke.

If we miss this opportunity to plan for growth, we’re setting ourselves up for an even worse corridor 10 years from now. While some worry about the effects of changing Duke Street too much, I worry that failing to do enough will be even worse. We’ve all seen the disastrous results of inaction – just look at the city’s flooding problems after years of failing to invest in our water systems.

It would be bad if the city strangles Duke Street, but it will be even worse if we stand by and let Duke Street strangle itself.

-Alex Goyette,
Alexandria
Complete loss of trust in city government

To the editor:

When I talk to Alexandria residents about the city we want, it’s a much different vision than that of the city government. It’s well past time to investigate and report the differences. Joe Sestak’s July 28 “loss of trust” letter discussed the city’s misrepresentations and Dino Drudi’s Aug. 4 letter showed how our city leaders “put developers’ interests ahead of taxpayers.” These letters highlight how our city government favors developers over residents and residents’ subsequent “loss of trust,” as Sestak said.

Alexandria Times reporting over several years has shed light on an extremely pro-developer and apparently ethically challenged city government.

A March 7, 2019 editorial, “Something stinks along the waterfront,” describes the city’s “bait and switch” tactics.

A Nov. 4, 2021 editorial, “Bridging the trust chasm,” talks of the city “overlooking violated conditions” and a “broken bond of trust.”

In the Jan. 20 editorial, “Just say ‘no’ to developers,” you wrote, “It’s just not a proper function of government ... to fund private business ventures.”

On May 20, The Our View editorial, “Destroying Alexandria’s historical character one decision at a time,” states that decisions are “as always, at the behest of developers.”

On one hand, Alexandria can be an attractive city with a great quality of life.

On the other hand, Alexandria is a city undergoing rapid transformation, thanks to the city government-developers rush to higher-rise, higher-density, higher-traffic, higher prices, higher costs, higher taxes for all of us. The city is consistently moving the lines in developers’ favor, often overlooking violated conditions that occur or even misrepresenting the facts, as Sestak details.

When the city administration invests taxpayer dollars in private luxury hotel ventures, that more than crosses ethical, judgment, transparency, role-of-government and public service lines into a vested interest in the developer’s success.

The city-developer relationship in Alexandria demands more scrutiny before it proceeds even farther over the lines of what a city government should be doing and how they should be doing it. There are too many unanswered questions and questionable aspects. The Planning Commission recently paused for more consideration of the Del Ray bonus density amendment; that makes sense for several major development projects.

I’d like to see a panel of residents investigate, get to the facts and report their findings to both the city and residents. I’ve seen enough to convince me that the city government has a very different picture of the future of Alexandria than do residents, and the city is not providing an accurate or complete picture to the public.

If you would like to help me gather the facts, write to me at johnfeskibinskijr@gmail.com.

-John Skibinski, Alexandria

Your Views

... the city government has a very different picture of the future of Alexandria than do residents,

- John Skibinski, Alexandria resident

The writer is dean of Virginia Theological Seminary.
Connecting with history

When Judge Vanzetta McPherson knelt in the Alabama grass and pierced the ground with a trowel where John Temple was lynched in 1919, she felt an undeniable encounter with a new truth.

“For all I know, some of the very dirt we dug was there. What if dirt could talk?” McPherson said, adding it was a poignant way to connect with Temple.

The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project, in partnership with the national nonprofit Equal Justice Initiative, will further memorialize Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas, who were lynched in the city in 1897 and 1899, with a soil collection ceremony next month in Market Square followed by a trip to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Alabama.

The EJI Community Remembrance Project requires localities to hold a soil collection and take a pilgrimage to their memorial and museum in Montgomery, Alabama. The ACRP has decided to connect these two events by bringing the sacred soil on the pilgrimage and delivering it to the Memorial for Peace and Justice in Alabama.

The soil collection ceremony for both men is on Sept. 24 at 4 p.m. in Market Square. Those attending have an opportunity to place soil representing the lives of McCoy and Thomas in jars bound for EJI.

The ceremonial soil containers are being built by eighth grade Alexandria City Public School students.

EJI Executive Director Bryan Stevenson explained the importance of this experience.

“In this soil, there is the sweat of the enslaved. In the soil, there is the blood of victims of racial violence and lynching. There are tears in the soil from all those who labored under the indignation and humiliation of segregation. But in the soil, there is also the opportunity for new life, a chance to grow something hopeful and healing for the future,” Stevenson said.

In the early morning of Oct. 6, the ACRP pilgrimage will begin. Buses will leave from the Nannie J. Lee Center carrying the EJI soil jars to Montgomery. The next morning, the McCoy and Thomas soil will be hand delivered to a final resting place during a ceremony at the Memorial of Peace and Justice. Participants will have time to tour the Memorial and then EJI’s Legacy Museum. That evening, participants will meet with members of Montgomery’s Community Remembrance Project.

On Oct. 8, participants will tour Montgomery’s civil rights locations. The following day, the group will have the opportunity to tour Selma and learn about Bloody Sunday. As a group, participants will also cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The pilgrimage will conclude with a banquet showcasing foods from the African diaspora.

The October ACRP Pilgrimage will be a one-of-a-kind community and social justice experience. Space is limited and on a first come, first serve basis. Registration closes Sept. 6.

Learn more about the soil collection and pilgrimage, including costs and registration, at: Alexandriava.gov/Historic

OUT OF THE ATTIC

Weekly Poll

Last Week How do you plan to participate in Restaurant Week?

31% I don't plan to partake.

29% I plan to go to a couple of restaurants.

21% I'm not sure yet.

14% What's Restaurant Week?

5% I plan to take full advantage and hit as many as possible.

This Week The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra is preparing to launch its 2022-2023 season. Do you plan to attend?

A) Yes! I have season tickets.

B) I'd like to attend at least one concert.

C) I have never been to a concert but would like to.

D) I won't be going.
Weekly Words

ACROSS
1 Squeezing snakes
5 Salad whose ingredients are often plated in rows
9 Not quite right
14 Trusty
19 Aloha Tower's island
20 State known as the Mother of Presidents
21 Still asleep
22 Like a wintry landscape
23 Relay race 101?
25 Rugby 101?
27 Spread, as sunscreen
28 Japanese herb
29 Gem with bands
30 Prefix for "grace"
31 Dream sleep letters
33 Clog or wedge
34 Slimy crawler
36 Cheerleading 101?
40 Apt rhyme for "masquerade"
43 Budget-friendly lodging
44 "___ I do that?"
51 Supply-and-demand subj.
55 Cheer for FC Barcelona
57 Passing thing
58 Singer India,___
59 Noodle once delivered by bicycle
61 Certain salamander
63 Bowling 101?
67 Places to exercise
68 Part of UAE
69 On the____(on unfriendly terms)
70 Sign of summer
73 Mama's boy, say
74 Isn't equivalent?
75 Quick escape
76 Something straight from the horse's mouth
77 Football 101?
78 Takes a break
79 Encouragement to a drag queen
80 Squeaked (by)
81 +
82 Clog or wedge
83 Casual greeting
84 Sydney citizen, e.g., informally
85 One may be raised in surprise
86 Archery 101?
87 Bed you may climb up to
88 Rightmost computer menu heading, often
89 Lines of credit?
90 Metric,____(2,205 pounds)
91 Twirled
92 Digital birthday greeting
93 One of 1,665 in the Eiffel Tower
94 Weightlifting 101?
95 Marathon 101?
96 Make hyped
97 Reacts to yeast
98 Baker who mentored Stokely Carmichael
99 Simplicity
100 Volunteer's offer
101 Sagging cheek
102 Angry review
103 One of 1,665 in the Eiffel Tower
104 ___-Apple juice
105 Feature of the Pantheon's roof
106 ___sense, briefly
107 Birth certificates, e.g.
108 Wall St. launch
109 ___the room
110 Beginning stage
111 Homer's neighbor
112 Cheerleading 101?
113 From the top
114 ___ the room
115 ___ the room
116 “___ the room” (Texas tourism slogan)

DOWN
1 Marsh
2 Stick in the water?
3 “Eureka!”
4 Got by (on)
5 “Cold Stone”
6 “Well, shucks!”
7 Cinnamon-flavored gum
8 Unhappy fan's sound
9 Tanning insect
10 ___ (Chinese dish)
11 “Let's open the windows!”
12 Comedian Essman
13 Pumpernickel loaves
14 Psychedelic initials
15 Traveling for business, in a way
16 “The Hunger Games” reader, typically
17 Not quite right
18 Minnesota WNBA squad
19 Dutch beer brand
20 Nibble at
21 Georgia
22 “Later skater”
23 “Barbie” role for Ryan Gosling
24 Nibbled, ___time
25 “Ish”
26 “Ish”
27 ___ the room
28 “Ish”
29 ___ the room
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100 “Ish”

DEATH NOTICES

ROBERT BREGMAN (94), of Alexandria, Aug. 19, 2022
FRANCES FOLTZ (94), formerly of Alexandria, Aug. 14, 2022
BARNABAS GEBRE-HAWARIAT (86), of Alexandria, Aug. 20, 2022
ROBYN HARRIS (54), of Alexandria, Aug. 20, 2022
HELEN KAFKA (72), of Alexandria, Aug. 18, 2022
KITTY RAY (69), of Alexandria, Aug. 20, 2022
ALFRED URQUIA (94), of Alexandria, Aug. 11, 2022
ALEXANDRIA TIMES

CALENDAR

AUGUST 25

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY Bike Ride

Women's Equality Day will be marked by biking to sites associated with the fight for women's rights in Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax. This free event - which is organized by the Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Alexandria Celebrates Women and the Alexandria Spokeswomen - will have three parts. Participants are welcome to join for one, two or all three parts.

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: 700 N. West St.
Information: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-equality-day-bike-ride-tickets-379273446087

AUGUST 27

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

BICYCLE RIDE Celebrate Women's Equality Day by biking to sites associated with the fight for women's rights in Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax. This free event - which is organized by the Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Alexandria Celebrates Women and the Alexandria Spokeswomen - will have three parts. Participants are welcome to join for one, two or all three parts.

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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LEGAL NOTICE

BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

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

BAR #2022-00315 OHAD
Request for demolition/encapsulation at 211 Prince Street.
Applicant: BOWA

BAR #2022-00353 PG
Request for alterations at 1214 Oronoco Street.
Applicant: Husam Misleh

BAR #2022-00354 PG
Request for demolition/encapsulation at 1214 Oronoco Street.
Applicant: Husam Misleh

BAR #2022-00359 OHAD
Request for alterations at 700 South Washington Street (Parcel ID Address: 610 Franklin Street).

BAR #2022-00360 PG
Request for alterations at 1000 Cameron Street.
Applicant: Dany Lopez, Danny’s Painting LLC

BAR #2022-00361 PG
Request for demolition/encapsulation at 1000 Cameron Street.
Applicant: Dany Lopez, Danny’s Painting LLC

BAR #2022-00363 OHAD
Request for alterations at 1400 King Street.
Applicant: Kien Tran

BAR #2022-00376 OHAD
Request for reapproval of a previously approved application for demolition/encapsulation at 109 Duke Street.
Applicant: Martha Peterson

BAR #2022-00385 OHAD
Request for reapproval of a previously approved application for alterations at 109 Duke Street.
Applicant: Martha Peterson

BAR #2022-00387 OHAD
Request for alterations at 212 South Saint Asaph Street.
Applicant: Leah and Ben Williams

BAR #2022-00389 OHAD
Request for demolition/encapsulation at 816 South Pitt Street.
Applicant: Colm Dillon and Ciara Collins

BAR #2022-00390 OHAD
Request for alterations at 327 North Columbus Street.
Applicant: Guy Lamolina and Anne Horan

BAR #2022-00391 OHAD
Request for alterations at 616 South Lee Street.
Applicant: Lynn and Raymond Stewart

BAR #2022-00392 OHAD
Request for demolition/encapsulation at 616 South Lee Street.
Applicant: Lynn and Raymond Stewart

Old and Historic Alexandria District (OHAD); Parker – Gray District (PG)

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

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VA

Notice of Public Hearing on Housing and Community Development Activity

The City of Alexandria will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 7 p.m. for the purpose of obtaining public comments on the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the recently completed City Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. The public hearing will be held virtually. Details of how to register for the public hearing using the Zoom platform can be found on the Office of Housing’s website (alexandriava.gov/Housing).

The CAPER is a report mandated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development which documents the use of federal Community Development Block Grant and Home Investment Partnership Program funds. The CAPER describes progress made in carrying out the City’s approved Consolidated Plan and One-Year Action Plan for Housing and Community Development during the recently completed fiscal year and assesses annual performance in relation to the priorities and goals established in that document. The CAPER identifies federal, state and local resources used, housing activities undertaken, and types and numbers of households assisted during the one-year period.

Persons wishing to comment on the CAPER may do so in writing and/or by providing testimony at the public hearing. Staff from the City’s Office of Housing will attend the public hearing to receive public comments. The City will accept written comments on the CAPER beginning Wednesday, September 7 through Thursday, September 22 at 5 p.m.

The CAPER will be available on the City’s Web site at alexandriava.gov/Housing or may be reviewed or picked up at the Office of Housing, Suite 215, 421 King Street, Alexandria, VA from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, begin-
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2022
9:30 AM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

The September 6, 2022 Alexandria Planning Commission Public Hearing and the September 17, 2022 Alexandria City Council Public Hearing are being held in the Council Chamber (301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314) and electronically. Members of the Planning Commission, City Council, and staff are participating in-person. The Planning Commission and City Council Public Hearings can be accessed by the public in the City Council Chamber, through the live broadcast on the government channel 70, streaming on the City’s website, and can be accessed via Zoom Webinar by the following links:

Planning Commission (Public Hearing Webinar): The Zoom Webinar will open at 6:30 p.m. to allow individuals to join, while the Planning Commission hearing will begin at approximately 7:00 p.m.

City Council (Public Hearing Webinar): Registration Link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rWNSqU7iQAWRgX16G3_axQ

Zoom Audio Conference: Dial in: 301-715-8592
Webinar ID: 972-9577 5195
Password: 157659

City Council (Public Hearing Webinar): Registration Link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_x2A-dEXBTe2eOXHxmTybw

Zoom Audio Conference: Dial in: 301-715-8592
Webinar ID: 986 8648 8005
Password: 218491

If you use the Zoom Webinar application, please be sure you have updated the application to the latest version for the best results. If you are unable to access the Zoom Webinar, please use the Dial-In number to access the meeting.

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

For reasonable disability accommodation for the Planning Commission Hearing, contact Jackie Cato at jackie.cato@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.3810, Virginia Relay 711. For reasonable disability accommodation for the City Council Hearing, please call the City Clerk and Clerk of Council’s Office at 703.746.4590 (TTY/TDD 838-5056). We request that you provide a 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made.

The following item description has been revised for consideration. All other previously advertised items for the above hearings remain the same:

Special Use Permit #2022-00048
106 Hume Avenue - Stracci Pizza
Public Hearing and consideration of a Special Use Permit for a temporary trailer and outdoor dining with over 40 seats (amending SUP #2021-0003); zoned: CL/Commercial low.
Applicant: Stracci Pizza

ALEXANDRIA PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

The following requests have been received for administrative review and approval.

For information on the following applications or to comment, visit the City’s website at www.alexandriava.gov/planning or call (703) 746-4666.

Special Use Permit #2021-00012
215 S. Union St. Unit:2
Administrative Special Use Permit request for a New Use of a Restaurant; zoned: W-1/Waterfront Mixed Use
Proposed Business Name: Cafe du Soleil
Applicant: Nahom Debessay
Planner: Patrick Silva – patrick.silva@alexandriava.gov

In accordance with Section 11-500 of the Zoning Ordinance, the above listed request may be approved administratively by the Director of Planning & Zoning. If you have any comments regarding the proposal above, please contact Planning & Zoning staff at 703.746.4666 or email the planner listed no later than September 15, 2022.

WHEREABOUTS

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Mattie Nicole Sensat, please contact Allen Harvey, Attorney At Law, PO Box 783, Hammond, LA 70404, 985.634.9568

Classifieds

PO Box 783, Hammond, LA 70404, 985.634.9568

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POTOMAC WINDOW CLEANING

Belle Haven on the Green
AN ENVIZABLE LOCATION JUST 2 LIGHTS TO OLD TOWN

1799 Duffield Lane
Sparkling hardwood flooring and a sun-flooded open floor plan emphasize the vast living space this luxury end-unit townhouse features. The main level has vaulted ceilings, an open floor plan with the dining room adjacent to the family room/kitchen which is complete with gas and wood-burning fireplaces. The upper level features two master suites and a flexible third bedroom/dressing room/nursery/office, and further 2 full baths. From one upper bedroom you can go up another level to a loft space with a full bathroom. The lower level features a family room with fireplace, another bonus space bedroom, full bath and storage or transformed laundry! This rare one-car garage townhouse development has quality upkeep and management! Low HOA!

Offered at $839,000

1827 Duffield Lane
Charming interior unit townhome – all updated! Backing to the Belle Haven neighborhood this four-level home has two master suites and a separate LOFT – think nursery, office, dressing room! The main level has an open floor plan with white, up-to-the-minute kitchen with quartz counters and custom cabinetry, dining area, living room and fireplace. The lower level features a fireplace, family room, full bath and laundry. Lower level could easily be a third bedroom and is great guest space or additional office. The backyard patio has been hardscaped and this rare garage townhouse is light filled and move-in ready! Low HOA!

Offered at $775,000

Celebrating 27 Years of service to my clients and my community!

Janet Caterson Price
Alexandria Real Estate Specialist | NVAR Lifetime Top Producer
703.622.5984 | janet@janetpricehomes.com | janetpricehomes.com
109 S Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | Equal Housing Opportunity