Bringing home 4,000 beagles

Alexandria shelter helps rescue pups from abusive breeding facility

BY KASSIDY MCDONALD

The Envigo breeding and research facility in Cumberland, Virginia has been found guilty of violating federal regulations during the past two years, forcing 4,000 beagles to be removed and rehomed.

According to an update from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals' undercover investigation, Senior U.S. District Court Judge Norman K. Moon "permanently barred Envigo from any activity requiring a federal Animal Welfare Act license" at Envigo's Cumberland facility, which includes experimenting on animals.

Federal authorities now have 60 days to remove the 4,000 dogs, give them to the Humane Society of the United States and find them new homes. Many Northern Virginia rescues are a part of the Humane Society's network, and have received

ACPS ups security

Officials implement new security measures as school year begins

BY LIANA HARDY

Amid pressure from concerned parents, Alexandria City Public Schools officials have increased security at school campuses by adding new measures to prevent a repeat of the violence from the 2021-22 school year.

Superintendent Gregory Hutchings, Ed.D., whose last day with the district was yesterday, announced that ACPS will now require students and staff to have an identification card present at all times. Additional school security officers are also in place to keep students from leaving campus without permission.

These new measures for the 2022-2023 academic year apply to ACPS middle and high schools, and Alexandria City High School will implement a new staggered dismissal process to prevent students from congregating outside of the school. Hutchings also said ACPS officials will continue to make sure every school is a “closed campus,” meaning that students are not allowed to come and go without permission, including during lunch time.

ACPS staff is committed to ensuring that all students feel safe at school, according to Alicia Hart, the chief of facilities and operations at ACPS.

“Our schools remain safe spaces. Safety and security is a top priority for ACPS and our commitment to safety can be noted in our most recent update regarding safety processes and student wellness measures,” Hart said.

Conversations about school safety increased after ACHS
Is there anything better than fall in Virginia?

September can be absolutely gorgeous here in the Commonwealth and we are so lucky that living in Alexandria offers the opportunity to be part of a great local community, while also enjoying close proximity to other areas for quick day trips and fun outdoor activities. Apple picking is one of our family favorites, so we wanted to share a few recommendations for picking this season:

1. Great Country Farms (Bluemont, VA)
2. Stribling Orchard (Markham, VA)
3. Hollin Farms (Delaplane, VA)

With the fall real estate market ramping up, friends, neighbors and past clients have been reaching out with market questions or for a home value consultation. If you have questions or are interested in a no-obligation quote, contact us! We’d love to help you.

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Suspect arrested in Saturday shooting

The Alexandria Police Department arrested one person in connection to a shooting that injured an innocent bystander on Saturday, according to a news release.

Tykeece Simms, 21, of Alexandria, has been charged with malicious wounding, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and unlawful discharge of a firearm, according to a news release from APD. He is being held without bond at the Alexandria Adult Detention Center.

On Saturday, APD responded to gunshots at 8:21 p.m. in the 700 block of North Fayette Street. A 38-year-old woman was wounded in the shooting and was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, according to the release. She was shot in her lower extremity but is expected to recover.

The investigation is still active and anyone with information related to the case is encouraged to contact Detective John Brattelli at 703-746-6699 or john.brattelli@alexandriava.gov.

Man dies in industrial accident

The Alexandria Police Department reported that a construction worker fell to his death off the roof of an apartment building at the intersection of Mill Road and Dock Lane in Alexandria on Tuesday afternoon.

The incident occurred around 3 p.m. at the Meridian At Eisenhower apartment complex, which is currently under construction. In response to the accident, there was a heavy police presence in the 2100 block of Mill Road.

The man, who was a part of a work crew on the roof of the building, fell four or five stories, according to APD spokesperson Marcel Bassett. He was transported to the hospital, but was announced dead on arrival.

APD is investigating the incident and will provide updates when available. Any witnesses with information about the incident should contact Detective Stephen Riley by phone at 703-746-6225, by email at stephen.riley@alexandriava.gov or call the non-emergency line at 703-746-4444.

City seeks comment on King Street pedestrian pilot

The City of Alexandria is asking for community input on the King Street Place Pilot, which converted the unit block of King Street and the northern portion of Strand Street into a pedestrian-only zone from May 27 through Sept. 5.

The city closed the area to vehicles to promote foot traffic on lower King Street and the new section of Waterfront Park, which has rotating art exhibits and is popular with residents and visitors.

Community members can provide feedback on the program using an online form through Sept. 13, before City Council decides whether to make the zone permanent. The form allows the public to share what they liked about the program and what should be improved; feedback will be used by council in its decision.

Community members can access the feedback form at https://www.research.net/r/AlexandriaVA-UnitKingPilot.

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FILE PHOTO

WEEKLY BRIEFING
beagles from Envigo.

One such organization, the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, has saved the lives of many beagles from the Envigo breeding facility. Gina Hardter, the shelter’s director of marketing and communications, was one of the staff members from the shelter who drove to Envigo to pick up the dogs. The AWLA learned about the beagles from HSUS, and as soon as they received an email from them, responded by taking in as many of the dogs as possible.

“They’re not very far from here so it was a trip we could do over the course of a day,” Hardter said. “Me and a colleague actually drove down in our van, we had it full of crates ready to take the beagles back… We were here and back within the course of probably eight hours.”

Hardter explained that HSUS did not have a lot of information about the beagles individually, thus leaving it to the shelter to figure out each individual beagle for themselves. The dogs lacked normal experiences and socialization; Hardter said they didn’t ever “learn how to dog.”

“We tried to figure out the next best steps for them, whether that would be foster, whether that would be adoption, whether that would be intensive behavior work in our shelter – we really wanted to gather that information first rather than make any assumptions and potentially set them up for not the best situation for them,” Hardter said.

The AWLA received a range of dogs, from puppies who were around three to four months old to two-year-olds. They decided to make the younger puppies available for adoption fairly quickly because they had only lived short lives in Envigo and were happy and playful with each other and with staff at the shelter. The older ones were a little shyer because they had not experienced life outside the facility, Hardter said, but they were in better shape than staff expected. The shelter’s behavior manager worked with the adopters to make sure families understood just how little experience the older dogs had had in their couple years of living.

Lucky Dog Animal Rescue, located in Arlington, has also taken Envigo beagles to find them loving homes after their confinement in the Envigo facility. Lucky Dog is a volunteer-powered nonprofit that saves the lives of dogs and cats, primarily from kill-shelters every week, but also partners with the HSUS in emergency situations like hurricanes or other natural disasters.

Mirah Horowitz, executive director of Lucky Dog Animal Rescue, has helped save almost 30 beagles from Envigo. Horowitz and Lucky Dog got involved with the Envigo beagles when HSUS asked their network of shelters for help. Horowitz explained that she needed to act quickly when news broke of the beagles in need, as Lucky Dog relies on their volunteers to foster dogs because they don’t have a shelter or kennel, which adds a level of complexity to the situation.

According to Horowitz, she can’t just “walk down the hallway and be like ‘I’m going to save these 10 open kennels for the beagles.’”

Lucky Dog holds adoption events at Petco. The beagles are happy to finally have families of their own.

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Lucky Dog Animal Rescue
PHOTO/LUCKY DOG ANIMAL RESCUE

Many Envigo beagles from Lucky Dog have found loving homes.

Lucky Dog holds adoption events at Petco. The beagles are happy to finally have families of their own.
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.
“I have to be able to find foster homes for all of them. The reason that this was super tricky is because all that we know before we pick up the beagles is we will get 10 beagles and they will be older than eight weeks old,” Horowitz said. “We aren’t told male or female, we aren’t told their weight, we aren’t told their [exact] age, like nothing. And that’s because HSUS doesn’t know that. It’s up to Envigo to decide, ‘Okay these 10 are going to that rescue,’ they parcel them out.”

Once she heard about the dogs from HSUS, Horowitz sent an email to Lucky Dog’s network of volunteers that asked for their help housing the first 10 dogs, and then again when they went to go get the second group of 10 dogs. If the volunteers are interested in taking one of the dogs, they will only find out the age and sex of the dog three hours before it arrives.

On Lucky Dog’s assigned pick-up day, three volunteers drive to the Envigo facility to pick up the 10 dogs. The Envigo staff loads the dogs into crates in the volunteers’ vehicles, as outside organizations like Lucky Dog are not allowed to enter the Envigo facility. The paperwork is then handed over to volunteers who detail each animal’s tattoo number, their sex and medical records. Paperwork is then sent to Horowitz, who has to make foster assignments by the time the beagles arrive from Cumberland, which is around two-and-a-half hours later.

As of now, the rescue has been to the Envigo facility twice, each time getting 10 dogs. Lucky Dog will be picking up another 10 soon, totaling 30 beagles that they will have saved from Envigo.

Once the beagles arrive at Lucky Dog, they are weighed and heartworm tested. Staff then photograph the dogs and put them on their website so adopters from Northern Virginia and beyond can see the beagles still available for adoption.

“After the first 10 came in, we actually had way more adoption applications than we had dogs, so we actually have a waitlist of people that specifically want an Envigo beagle,” Horowitz said. “The thing is that these beagles, they’re all amazingly sweet considering they’ve been living in a breeding facility.”

The community, between volunteers to foster and potential adopters, have come together to help find forever homes for these dogs, where they can be loved and cared for for the rest of their lives – something none of the 4,000 dogs in the facility have ever experienced.

“The first group of 10 is already adopted, [they] came in three weeks ago. The second group of 10 came in this week, and I’ve got only three available still,” Horowitz said.

Horowitz also said some of the beagles are more outgoing than others, but Bart, Flash and Zed – the three dogs still available for adoption as of Monday – need another dog in the home to help them adjust to life outside Envigo.

The AWLA is also happy to have found loving homes locally for Envigo beagles, Hardter said, and all of their beagles have been adopted. Because they had more interest than they did beagles, the shelter created an online survey and chose adopters to meet the dogs, which gave people a “more fair chance” to adopt one of the beagles.

“The community outpouring was so amazing, so many people wanted to give them so many chances,” Hardter said. “I would love if some of those people would maybe take a look at some of our other dogs. We have so many wonderful dogs from so many different kinds of backgrounds who could definitely benefit from a loving wonderful family, just like these beagles are going to have.”

–kmcdonald@alextimes.com

Obituary

Boi Jon Jaeger

August 25, 2022 (written by the decedent December 2017)

Boi Jon Jaeger died peacefully on April 10 from a lengthy case of Parkinsonism. Dr. Jaeger, known as “Jon,” was born on May 17, 1936, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Sophie Margaret Greisen and Ludwig John Jaeger. His early years were spent in Knoxville, Tenn. In 1950 he moved to Pittsburgh, Pa., where he attended Mt. Lebanon High School and became an Eagle Scout. He attended Duke University, where he earned BS, MHA and PhD degrees. Upon finishing baccalaureate studies in 1957, he was commissioned as an Ensign in the US Navy. In 1987, he retired as Captain, USNR. After completing his active duty in the navy, he joined the staff of the Duke University Medical Center, later becoming Professor and Chairman of the Department of Health Care Administration. In 1963 he married Marianna Sherman of Seaford, Delaware, and they had three sons: John Ashley, Robert Jeffrey and David Arthur. The couple divorced in 1985. His brief marriage to Rita Vileisis in 1990 produced one daughter: Julia Nicole. Then in 2007, he married Ann Dusel Corson of Alexandria, Va. Together, Ann and Jon traveled extensively throughout the world. Jon’s interests included travel, reading, skiing and growing orchids. He is survived by his wife, Ann, his three sons, two stepdaughters, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

BEAGLES

FROM | 4

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student Luis Mejia Hernandez, 18, was fatally stabbed by another ACHS student during lunch time on May 24 following a fight between a large group of students at the Bradlee Shopping Center. ACPS was supposed to be maintaining a closed campus policy during the time.

A March school safety report also revealed more violent incidents at the schools: 18 students were arrested, 41 fights or assaults were reported and 15 weapons were seized, including a gun, five knives, a stun gun, two fake weapons and pepper spray, between August and December 2021. The report stated that 71 incidents occurred at Francis C. Hammond Middle School, 59 incidents at ACHS, 49 incidents at elementary schools and 12 incidents at K-8 schools.

School Board Member Abdel Elnoubi said that while he recognizes parents’ concerns about school safety this year, he believes that ACPS staff will effectively enforce the new measures and keep parents informed.

“Look, I get it, I’m an ACPS parent myself, and I want to know that ACPS is doing everything they can do to keep my child safe and each ACPS student safe, especially when there’s a threat or incident,” Elnoubi said. “So clear and transparent communications is critical to making parents feel safe.”

Katy Matthews, president of the ACHS Parent Teacher Advisory Council, said that she believes the new security measures are already being properly enforced; when she picked up her son from the high school for a doctor’s appointment, she had to call school security officers before meeting her son outside, and the officers required a doctor’s note for her son to get back in.

“I actually just experienced the campus. I had to pick up my son for a doctor’s appointment, and it seemed to go very smoothly. I was not allowed in the building,” Matthews said. “I am an adult that does not work, [am] not a child that goes to that school, and so I’m not allowed in that building.”

However, the Times observed that about a dozen high school-aged students with backpacks still gathered at the Bradlee Shopping Center during lunch time on Tuesday – despite the closed campus policy – with most congregating at the McDonalds and using the DASH bus to get back and forth from the high school campus.

ACPS parent René Islas, who has met with a community group of parents dedicated to school safety in July, also said that students have reported that some long-term substitute teachers have not shown up for the first few days of school, which poses a safety risk for students.

Islas worked with the community group to release a survey about school safety in May. According to the 179 responses, 83% of parents were very concerned or somewhat concerned about school safety, and more than 61% of parents felt their children were unsafe. Islas also noted that ACPS’ 2021-22 equity climate survey found that student feelings of safety declined between 2021 and 2022, with only 58% of students reporting that they felt safe in 2022.

“What we found out is that people did not think their kids were safe last year. They had trouble feeling like the police were being called, there were a lot of reports of violence in the schools,” Islas said.

However, Islas is hopeful that ACPS will continue to respond to community demands and better enforce their safety rules.

“So far, so good, but it’s only one week. And I think the reaction to that, to those measures that were announced, was that those things should have been done in the first place. ... If they would have done them last year, and more effectively, then maybe some of those issues might have been prevented,” Islas said.

Many parents also expressed relief that School Resource Officers would be maintained on some high school and middle school campuses; ACPS has two SROs at ACHS, one SRO at the Minnie Howard Campus of ACHS and one SRO at George Washington Middle School.

Although City Council voted to remove SROs from schools in June 2021, they reversed their decision in October 2021 following reports of violent incidents at several schools. According to Matthews, many parents feel more at ease now that the SROs are back in the building.

“Many of our families were happy with that. And that’s kind of where that centered, was having those SROs around. We knew our families supported them and they were part of our community ... And so when you take them away, you’re taking part of the community and how everything works,” Matthews said.

SROs do not enforce the ACPS student code of conduct, which means they will not enforce the new security measures, including the ID policy and the closed campus policy – these policies are enforced by ACPS staff, according to McLaughlin. The Alexandria Police Department’s School Resource Unit webpage states that they deal with school policy, along with students with emotional and educational issues, laws of search, seizure and arrest on school grounds and other related issues.

ACPS officials want to ensure that SROs are not overly involved with school discipline matters, according to Matthew McLaughlin, an ACPS parent who is a member of the School Law Enforcement Partnership, a group that includes selected parents, ACPS officials, APD officials and other community leaders.

“It is good practice that SROs do not enforce the school policy – with most concerns relating to maintaining a closed campus policy. ACPS was supposed to be maintaining a closed campus policy during the time.

“School Resource Officers help enforce school policy, but the new security measures will be primarily enforced by ACPS staff.
School Board ponders grading changes

After debate, potential homework policy revisions tabled
BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

The Alexandria School Board discussed the future of Alexandria City Public Schools’ grading policy – but ultimately tabled a proposed measure – and heard from outgoing Superintendent Gregory Hutchings, Ed.D., at a special School Board meeting on Aug. 25.

Hutchings, whose last day as superintendent was yesterday, thanked the board for the opportunity to serve. He also commended staff and faculty, particularly for their dedication through the COVID-19 pandemic, and acknowledged his former teachers for impacting his future career path. Hutchings went to ACPS schools and is a current resident of the city.

“This really is my dream job, this is the job I always strived to have one day, and for me to be able to have the opportunity to serve the community [that helped] me become the person I am is simply amazing,” Hutchings said.

He also expressed gratitude for the City of Alexandria as a whole, which he referred to as “very special.”

“I can gripe about some things in this community, but that is not our entire community. We have a community that is not only diverse, but we are progressive, we are forward-thinking, we are open-minded, we are willing to try things differently, and we come together when we need to come together,” Hutchings said. “That is something I am very proud of.”

The board also discussed possible revisions to the district’s grading policy. Although the current policy has structures in place for students falling behind, it does not address how to handle students who simply do not complete coursework. The proposed policy includes big-picture ways to respond to this issue, but specific details would need to be implemented at a later date.

“Almost all the changes in the policy are around putting in high-level structures to support that and begin to create those systems for how we respond when students do not complete their work,” Matt Smith, ACPS special projects coordinator, said at the meeting.

Proposed revisions include removing the temporary COVID-19 provisions; removing class rank; an emphasis that grades reflect mastery of course standards and not student behaviors; a provision that grades should reflect work completed in class; standardized weighting of formative (40%) and summative (60%) assessments when calculating grades; and a provision that a missed assignment is an absence of data on student knowledge and skills on a topic, while a zero means the student has no knowledge or skills on a topic.

The latter idea stresses that educators do not receive data on whether a student achieved mastery of content if they do not turn in an assignment.

“[Teachers have] no information, and calculating any sort of a grade, be it a 0, be it a 50, be it whatever, is actually statistically invalid,” Smith said. “... What we’re saying is...”

SEE GRADING

The Aug. 25 School Board meeting included a discussion about potential changes to the ACPS grading policy as well as Hutchings’ farewell.
GRADING

that if a teacher doesn’t have data, they should indicate that in the grade book.”

Instead of giving the student a zero on a missed assignment, the proposed grading policy would indicate that teachers should assist students in completing the work to help them learn, grow and provide accurate data sets in order to ultimately produce a proper assessment.

One of the biggest changes to the policy, Smith said, is that schools would be required to create systematic supports at the school level for students who miss assignments, rather than relying solely on teachers to do so.

Staff received many questions about the potential implications of changing this policy, such as if students would only have to turn in assignments when they choose to and not face repercussions.

While Smith said he doesn’t imagine that would be the case, the specifics of the updates still need to be ironed out.

“The teacher, when they provide the grade, is supposed to reflect that summary or that mastery of content, but that’s not necessarily a direct mathematical calculated algorithm. Teachers are going to have to do some interpretations around those things if they have sufficient data to do that,” Smith said. “… The details about that still need to be developed, and that needs to happen in conversations with teachers, school administrators and central office folks.”

Staff also received complaints regarding the provision that grades should reflect work completed in class, with many asserting the value of homework.

For example, student representative Emily Milton shared concerns that not grading homework assignments would place more pressure on in-class assignments – which could prove harmful to students with test anxiety – as well as leave them ill-equipped for college and other post-secondary plans.

“They [won’t be] prepared for the workload that college will bring to them if they are taught that outside of school work is just practice, because they will have to turn that in in college, probably, and then they won’t know how to do that,” Milton said.

But Smith emphasized that different students have different experiences; some environments are conducive to completing homework and others are not.

“That’s the core of equity is ensuring that those students who may not be in a situation [that is] supportive of getting the academics completed outside of school hours are not put at a disadvantage because of that,” Smith said. “What we’re trying to do here with this concept is balance that need for additional time, additional practice, the fact that learning to complete your work is a life lesson … [while] simultaneously acknowledging the fact that for some of our kids, that’s just simply harder because of the environments they have outside of school.”

The new policy would allow teachers to assign, collect and assess homework, but the actual grade would only reflect work completed in the classroom.

Chair Meagan Alderton expressed support for the changes, encouraging educators to reflect on flaws of the current education system and opportunities for improvement.

“It’s really important for us as educators to remember that we are pawns of the institutions that gave us our education. So all the things we know and believe to be right and correct and true, I think we have to acknowledge that we learn those in a system that was designed to be oppressive, particularly to people of color,” Alderton said.

During a lengthy deliberation, Board Member Ashley Simpson Baird said she was initially excited about the grading policy changes because of the emphasis on equity, but after talking with educators who will be tasked with implementing the changes, it became clear that more conversations should be had prior to approving the revisions.

Many educators expressed frustration at not being included in discussions about the proposed changes, she said.

“They’re responses made it so clear to me that we are just not there yet. We have not done the work to bring people along so that they understand how this is so inherently rooted in everything that we’re trying to do,” Baird explained. “That, coupled with the fact that … this is the fourth day of a new school year … I just feel like we are not there yet.”

Hutchings highlighted that whatever decision the board makes is not set in stone just yet.

“Whatever the board does today, this is not an end all be all. This is something that is going to evolve over time,” Hutchings said. “… It’s trying to have just some base line to start with and allow for this upcoming year to really monitor how this works and continue to have the grading committee work through this as well as teachers providing feedback at that point on what is happening with students with those revised policies that are in place.”

Ultimately, the board opted to table the homework grading discussion and return to it at a later date, likely for the following school year.

Baird made a motion, with Board Member Kelly Carmichael Booz seconding, to adopt policy IKC as is and for regulation IKC-R to keep the November 2021 version but strike language specific to school year 2021-22, add in revised language on class rank and add in the 60/40 breakdown between summative and formative assessment. It passed 7 to 1, with Vice Chair Jacinta Greene dissenting.

Then, Board Member Michelle Rief made a motion, with Baird seconding, to change the wording of the high school credit course from averaging the “final exam” to the “final summative assessment.” It passed unanimously.

-Meagan L. Alderton, Alexandria school board chair
In every city, there are certain businesses that are able to withstand the test of time. The secret? These establishments rely on generations of loyal customers as well as tourism during peak times throughout the year to keep their doors open. Alexandria is no different; from Old Town to Del Ray, the city includes many businesses that have achieved the coveted milestone of being open for more than 25 years.

According to a study conducted by JPMorgan Chase & Co., 51% of small businesses nationwide are 10 years old or less, and 32% of small businesses are five years old or less. The study also found that roughly one third of new businesses shut down within their first two years, and half exit within their first five years, making it extremely difficult for small business owners to surpass the statistic of being open for more than 25 years.

Not only is it hard to keep a small business open for that long, but every business in the country had to adjust their business models to try and stay afloat during the global COVID-19 pandemic. Clothing, jewelry and gift stores shut their doors and relied heavily on pickups, deliveries and online business, while restaurants relied on takeout or socially distanced outdoor dining during the height of COVID-19.

Joe Haggerty, CEO of the Chamber ALX, Alexandria’s Chamber of Commerce, said the organization performed significant outreach during COVID-19 to keep businesses from shutting down. It acted as a “centralized information source” that would pump out advice to Chamber members daily, with helpful tips such as how to get Paycheck Protection Program money and how to fill out necessary paperwork.

Haggerty called Alexandria businesses “flexible and resilient,” and said that much of their success during the pandemic can be attributed to the way residents shop and eat locally.

Though no easy feat, with a little luck and a lot of community support, it’s possible for businesses to weather pandemics, technology advancements and cultural shifts in order to become household names. Here are three Alexandria establishments whose doors have been open for 25 years or more.

King’s Jewelry
King’s Jewelry is located in the heart of Old Town on King Street. It is owned by Norman “Brad” Bradford, who joined the business in 1962 and then bought the business in 1978.
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– after it had been originally opened by Moritz Bier in 1955. Bradford's wife Cathy, daughter Tari and sons Andrew and Greg all work at King's Jewelry, making it a true family affair.

Andrew has lived in Alexandria since he was a child and has watched his father successfully run King's Jewelry his entire life. The business has changed a lot, Andrew said, as it has been important to keep up with styles of jewelry and watches that become trendy at any given period in time.

King's Jewelry sells necklaces, rings, bracelets and watches, and is also home to a full gold shop. In the back of the store, there are three goldsmiths who perform custom work and repairs. For Andrew, the most important part of the store's business is the generations of customers that keep coming in.

"Their moms bought their engagement rings here and now they're here, and even sometimes the third generation comes in," Andrew said about the store's customers. "So just that repeat business or referral is the biggest thing for us – and the best advertising we can get."

That doesn't mean that in the 67 years King's Jewelry has been open, it hasn't experienced hardships. It has been a constant cycle of staying current, Andrew said. When the shop first opened, much of the inventory was giftware; it has now changed to be mostly jewelry. The store usually acquires inventory from attending jewelry shows, where items are hand picked to sell in the store. King's Jewelry focuses on quality rather than just carrying the typical major designer lines you can likely find in any jewelry store.

Andrew also said that about 10 years ago, the entire inside of the store was remodeled. While it was closed for two weeks, they gutted the interior and rebuilt all of the jewelry cases to be more modern. COVID-19 also proved to be a challenge to King's Jewelry; shopping for jewelry is usually a tactile experience where people want to touch the items they're buying. The store closed for a two-month period at the peak of the pandemic and had to focus on another way to keep the business afloat.

"We were still doing stuff from home or delivering if someone needed something, [like if] we had their engagement ring and it was here before we closed – because it was kind of a quick shutdown. Once we reopened – because our business is a face-to-face thing – we had people come back right away and it was really good to see," Andrew said.

According to Andrew, his father Brad semi-retired during the pandemic, so he doesn't come into the store as much anymore, but will do a lot of the store's work from his home. Brad often says "I've been walking through that door for 57 years!" Besides the immediate family, Andrew said the store has about 10 staff members who have been working for the business for a number of years and have become family.

Andrew attributes King's Jewelry's 67 years of longevity to the trust that they have built over the years in the community.

"Because we have been here so long, a lot of people have had friends or family that have shopped here, so it is a place they know they can trust," Andrew said. "There's a lot of people that have grown up here ... and you get new people that come and go. You ask a neighbor, 'Oh I just moved here,' and they tell you this is the place to go."

The Alexandria Pastry Shop & Catering Company

For restaurants, business life expectancies are even lower than businesses in general. An Ohio State University study found that 60% of restaurants don't make it past their first year and 80% close within five years of their grand opening.

One place that defies this statistic is the Alexandria Pastry Shop & Catering Company. It's located in the Bradlee Shopping Center and has been open for the past 34 years. Tom Lally opened the bakery and cafe in July 1988 after living in Alexandria for almost 46 years.

Lally's business, like the Bradfords', has found success in Alexandria because of the steady growth and customer loyalty that spreads by word of mouth.

For Lally, some of the most successful moments in his pastry shop's lifespan involve the young workers that he has been able to influence along the way. Over the past 34 years, he has been employing
We have all heard by now about the incredible rescue of 4,000 beagles from the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions at the Envigo breeding and research plant in Virginia. Investigators visiting the facility on numerous occasions in 2021 and 2022 found nightmarish conditions, including beagles with severe and untreated medical issues, insufficient food and housed in filthy conditions, with hundreds found dead at the facility. Envigo is the second-largest producer of dogs for medical research, breeding roughly 25% of the beagles used in medical and drug research in the United States. After the lawsuit filed by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Envigo agreed in July to release 4,000 beagles from the plant and shut down operations. The federal government and the company agreed to transfer the dogs to the Humane Society of the United States. Since then, the beagles have been moved to numerous shelters or groups around the country such as the Beagle Freedom Project, which places the dogs in foster homes for rehabilitation before finding their forever homes.

One of those beagles, Mamma Mia, has hit the new home jackpot. It was announced last week that her new residence is a sprawling estate in Montecito, California, where the 7-year-old dog will roam around a lush seven-acre property with her new owners, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. The royal couple reached out to the Beagle Freedom Project in search of a new furry family member. Mia had been transported to California with eight of her newborn puppies – she had clearly been used as a breeding dog – after the Virginia rescue. Thankfully, Meghan Markle has had a rescue beagle for many years, and when she saw the story about Envigo’s shutdown she wanted to get involved. She knew puppies usually are easier to find homes for and wanted to help one of the older, more vulnerable dogs. After spending some time playing with Mia in the back yard, Markle was sold; Mia was going home with them.

It has been about six weeks since the beagles left Cumberland, and during this time rescue organizations have been treating medical issues, socializing and just getting to know these pups. Those that are healthy and ready for a new home are now being adopted out all over the country. A quick google search shows Envigo beagles being placed in homes everywhere from Tampa, Fla. to Ann Arbor, Mich., Asheville, N.C. to Spokane, Wash. Hopefully some lasting good will come out of the dire circumstances discovered at Envigo. A bipartisan piece of legislation dubbed the “Beagle Bill” was signed into law in August by Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker (R), requiring animal research and testing facilities in that state which use dogs and cats to offer healthy animals for adoption once their time in research has ended. Sadly, these animals traditionally would have faced eu-
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thanasia once their time in research concluded. Now, Massachusetts joins a dozen other states, including Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York, with similar laws that facilitate a relationship between laboratories and non-profit animal adoption organizations to give these animals a second chapter in their life as pets.

Would you like to add a rescued beagle to your family? While the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria recently posted that they found families for all of the beagles they received, Homeward Trails in Fairfax is one of the area non-profits helping to place a number of these dogs locally and the Tri County Animal Shelter is currently accepting applications for the 20 or so rescued beagles placed with them. You may not be able to make yours a Duke or a Duchess like Mia, but they’ll love you just the same!

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

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college and high school students in Alexandria part time to work in the shop. They answer the phone, take orders and interact with customers – which are lifelong skills that he said have helped them in their future careers.

From lawyers to doctors to one of his workers moving on to work on Air Force Two, Lally said teaching these kids over the years has served as his biggest sense of pride.

“One of them called me up [one] time and said, ‘Tom, everything I know about working I owe to you.’ And that is very rewarding,” Lally said. “When you leave here you know how to treat people who work at a restaurant because you know how you’ve been treated.”

During the pandemic, which was a hard hit for the Alexandria Pastry Shop & Catering Company, Lally said he “applied for everything he could get” from the government so he could keep his business alive. Without the government, he said he could not have gotten through the worst parts of the pandemic.

Another change for 25-plus-year-old establishments is that social media is now a huge part of business success. For Lally, social media “wasn’t relevant at all” when he first started his business. Now, the pastry shop has an Instagram page, a Facebook profile and also responds to online reviews as often as possible.

Although business isn’t quite back to where it was before the pandemic, Lally said he’s hopeful for the future. The establishment is making more wedding cakes because more weddings are happening post-pandemic. Yet corporate catering, which used to be a big part of business, is not as frequent because of the amount of people working from home. Constant adjustments are to be expected of a long-tenured business, but Lally attributes his success to many of the things he has kept the same.

“We’ve kept the same quality; we use fresh eggs, imported cream and chocolates and real vanilla – everything is the best we can get and we have continued to have the best we can get. I also emphasize service. Treat people like you want to be treated. People respond to that and come back,” Lally said.

Some of Lally’s customers who have moved out of the area still come back to visit him for a pastry or cake. He said that word of mouth is one of the most important strategies for businesses planning to stay around for a long time.

“A happy person will tell two to three people,” Lally said.

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Chadwicks

Chadwicks, a restaurant serving casual American cuisine, has operated at 203 Strand St. since January 1979, and was bought by Trae La mond and his wife in July 2015.

Chadwicks Georgetown opened in 1967 and was already an institution by the time the Old Town location opened, meaning the Chadwicks name has been around for the past 55 years in the Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia regions. Lamond, a lifelong resident of Alexandria, bought the restaurant on July 1, 2015, in what he says was the happiest day of his professional life.

The pandemic hit Chadwicks hard too, as the decree from then Gov. Ralph Northam (D) to shut down restaurants due to COVID-19 came down on St. Patrick’s Day 2020, which is usually one of the busiest days of the year. “We had to run with a skeleton crew up front, so that meant a lot of hours for the staff that stuck it out through the delivery/curbside days. Our back-of-house staff stayed on all the way through. Keeping our long-tenured back-of-house staff through COVID helped us remain consistent once we were allowed to reopen,” Lamond said. “I am very proud of how they all toughed it out and I honestly think we are in a better position now than ever before.”

One particular challenge for the restaurant industry is the constant competition with other dining options, which makes it difficult for any restaurant to survive for many years. Like King’s Jewelry and Alexandria Pastry, a loyal customer base is the key to surviving periodic economic downturns, Lamond said.

“One of our biggest challenges has been trying to stay relevant in an industry where there’s always something new and exciting opening just around the corner. We have done a lot to try to stay relevant in the past several years. We try to stay on trend with new menu items, cocktails, craft beers and such,” Lamond said. “We’ve also recently renovated the restaurant from top to bottom, including adding a new outdoor balcony and dining space. Hopefully this will help us compete with some of the newer restaurants.”

For Chadwicks, consistency and the well-known name is integral to their long-lasting success. Customers grow with the businesses that stick around long enough – and even establish special relationships with the staff.

“You know you can always come see [chef] Ogi for a delicious half-priced burger every Monday, or Karen for the best weekend brunch in Old Town,” Lamond said, crediting his success to the city residents, as they are “100% the reason for [Chadwicks'] long term success.”

Next up for Chadwicks is adding to their front-of-house staff, and continuing to make their loyal customers happy.

“Chadwicks will remain open until people stop eating burgers and drinking beer,” Lamond said. “As for passing the business down a generation, I will have to check with my second and fourth graders and get back to you.”

-kmcdonald@alextimes.com

Making Alexandria business websites beautiful
Five tips to create a comfortable forever home

BY FAMILY FEATURES

For most homebuyers, their dream homes are not something they’re likely to find already on the market. With a unique vision of your dream home’s look, location and features, building a custom home is generally the easiest way to make that dream a reality.

To keep things moving as smoothly as possible amid what can be a complicated process, consider these tips as you embark on the journey.

Set a realistic budget

You’ll need to start off by determining how much you can spend on your house. Typically, the cost of building a home is around $100-$200 per square foot, according to research from HomeAdvisor. You’ll also need to account for the lot price as well as design fees, taxes, permits, materials and labor. Materials and labor should make up about 75% of the total amount spent, but it’s wise to build in a buffer for price changes and overages. While building your budget, consider what items and features are “must-haves” and things that should only be included if your budget allows.

Identify the perfect location

Think about where you’d like to live and research comparable lots and properties in those areas, which can give you a better idea of costs. Because the features of many dream homes require a wider footprint, you may need to build outside of city limits, which can make natural gas more difficult to access. Consider propane instead, which can do everything natural gas can and go where natural gas cannot or where it is cost prohibitive to run a natural gas line. Propane also reduces dependence on the electrical grid, and a propane standby generator can safeguard your family if there is a power outage.

Use universal design principles

Many homebuyers want to ensure their space is accessible to family members and guests both now and for decades to come. Whether you’re considering an outdoor oasis, food lover’s kitchen, or owner’s suite. Because during these times, home is more important than ever. Balance. Harmony. Beauty. Are our ultimate pursuits.

The CaseStudy®

Since our first renovation over 60 years ago we’ve been a team of visionaries. Our unique approach to the remodeling process is tried and true. It's so effective that we had to give it a name: The CaseStudy®. We guide you through every step, using 3D renderings to bring new possibilities to light. At every phase of our work, we'll maintain strict attention to time and budget. Don’t forget our 5-year warranty. Because you are our highest priority.


Are our ultimate pursuits.
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come. As the housing market slows and mortgage rates rise, buyers may look to incorporate features that allow them to age in place. Incorporating principles of universal design – the ability of a space to be understood, accessed and used by people regardless of their age or ability – can make it possible to still enjoy your home even if mobility, vision or other challenges arise as you age.

For example, the entryway could have a ramp or sloped concrete walkway leading to a front door wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair with a barrier-free threshold. Inside, wider hallways and doorways, strategic lighting and appliances installed at lower heights are mainstays of universal design.

Alternative energy
With today’s electric grid, more than two-thirds of the energy is wasted; it never reaches homes. Unlike electricity, propane is stored in a large tank either above or below ground on the property. A 500-gallon tank can hold enough propane to meet the annual energy needs of an average single-family home – enough to power all major systems in a home.

Propane pairs well with other energy sources, including grid electricity and on-site solar, which makes it a viable option for dual-energy homes. Similar to natural gas, propane can power major appliances such as your furnace, water heater, clothes dryer, fireplace, range and standby generator. Often, propane works more efficiently with fewer greenhouse gas emissions than electricity, meaning your home is cleaner for the environment.

Build a team of experts
Hiring the right people can make the process of turning your dream into reality go much smoother. Start by researching reputable builders, paying special attention to the types of homes they build to find a style that matches what you’re looking for, as well as price ranges for past homes they’ve built. Consider how long the builders have been in business and if they’re licensed and insured.

Depending on your builder’s capabilities, you may also need to hire an architect or designer. In addition to your real estate agent to assist with purchasing the lot and selling your previous home, you may need assistance from other professionals, like a real estate attorney, landscape architect and propane supplier. A local propane supplier can work with the builder to install a properly sized propane storage tank either above or below ground and connect appliances.

Propane-powered appliances
You may be surprised to learn propane can power major appliances, which can increase the value of a home because of their high performance, efficiency and reduced dependence on the electrical grid.

1) Furnace
A propane-powered furnace has a 50% longer lifespan than an electric heat pump, reducing its overall lifetime costs. Propane-powered residential furnaces also emit up to 50% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than electric furnaces and 12% fewer greenhouse gas emissions than furnaces running on oil-based fuels.

2) Boiler
Propane boilers have an expected lifespan of up to 30 years, but many can last longer if serviced and maintained properly. High-efficiency propane boilers offer performance, space savings and versatility, as well as a significant reduction in carbon dioxide emissions compared to those fueled by heating oil.

3) Clothes dryer
Propane-powered clothes dryers generate up to 42% fewer greenhouse gas emissions compared to electric dryers. They also dry clothes faster, which can reduce energy use and cost.

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HOME OF THE WEEK

Charming Tuscan stone mason colonial in Belle Haven

If you are a garden enthusiast, this house is a dream come true ... flower beds galore, bushes, trees, a front yard pond, slate pavers and a patio create a variety of beautiful natural settings without the grass cutting. Plaster walls, original glass and brass door hardware, solid wood doors, custom built-ins, parquet and hardwood are just a few of the home’s interior construction features. Living room with a wood burning fireplace, spacious dining room, year-round sunroom, three bedrooms upstairs with two full baths and a lower level with a full bath and den. Many updates were made over the years since the owner’s purchase. Close to transportation, Old Town, Belle Haven Country Club, Belle View Shopping Center, GW Parkway and so much more. Great value and condition. Call for a personal showing!

HOMES ADVERTORIAL
Our View ———

Dog days

Virginia may be for lovers, but Alexandria is definitely for dog lovers.

Our city’s love affair with canines is on display daily in Alexandria’s parks, on neighborhood sidewalks and in outdoor eateries. We have a plethora of stores that provide goods and services for dogs — and, yes, cats too. Cadres of people are employed as dog walkers and washers, while our doggie day-care facilities are full and have waiting lists.

Virtually every neighborhood in Alexandria has a dog park, many fenced, shady and welcoming. Our citizenry loves pooches, and our local government accommodates this affair by enacting dog-friendly ordinances.

Numerous studies have shown that people who own dogs have lower blood pressure, exercise more and have better social-emotional health than non-owners. For instance, a BMC Public Health study published in 2017 showed that older dog owners, defined as age 65 and up, walked on average more than 2,700 additional steps than their non-canine-owning peers.

The at times crushing isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic was somewhat mitigated by an explosion in dog adoptions. People who had considered pet ownership took the plunge, while others added a second or third dog to their pack. According to the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 23 million Americans – nearly one in five households – adopted a pet during the pandemic.

So, it should surprise exactly no one that after multiple violations of federal regulations were found at the Envigo breeding and research facility in Cumberland, Virginia, our city’s residents and institutions stepped up to help provide homes for some of the 4,000 beagles. Alexandrians are as philanthropic as we are dog-crazy, making the Envigo crisis a fitting match in this city.

Two pieces in this week’s Alexandria Times, our page 1 story, “Bringing home 4,000 beagles,” and Kim Gilliam’s pet column, “One of the rescue beagles is now a duchess!” discuss different aspects of this simultaneously sad and heart-warming saga.

We were not surprised to learn that the demand for rescued beagles outpaced the supply in Alexandria, as the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria has already adopted out all of the Envigo dogs it received. However, other Northern Virginia organizations such as Homeward Trails in Fairfax, the Tri County Animal Shelter and Lucky Dog Animal Rescue in Arlington still had Envigo beagles as of the Times’ press time.

The less feel-good aspect of this story is the fact that so many beagles, a breed that many of us know and love, are being used for medical research. While most people are aware that medical research takes place, we likely envision fruit flies, hamsters or Guinea Pigs as the subjects.

It’s more shocking, though perhaps it shouldn’t be, to focus on the fact that thousands of dogs at a time are bred for the purpose of testing medical treatments for humans.

The ethics of that conundrum are disturbing, and perhaps a topic for another day. But there’s no denying that the generosity of Alexandrians is affirming.

Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson

Photo of the Week

The Torpedo Factory on a recent morning.

Your Views ———

Coming to terms with our national origins

To the editor:

In his Aug. 25 column, “Telling the story of a complex past,” Rev. Ian Markham poses an achievement-versus-sin dichotomy underlying our country’s founding and rise to greatness. The sin narrative insists that slavery and segregation were central to our country’s history and today manifests in mass incarceration and other forms of socioeconomic oppression. Racism was, indeed, the principal driving force behind the American Revolution and the establishment of the United States.

American colonists had fought in the French and Indian War with a desire to settle the lands beyond the Appalachians which Great Britain won from the French as a consequence of the war’s outcome. George Washington and other American founders and the volunteers who had fought in the war had been promised tens of thousands of acres beyond the Appalachians which King George III instead reserved for the Amerindians through the Proclamation of 1763, to avert a costly conflict with the Amerindian tribes.

Even Mount Vernon’s official site reluctantly acknowledges that “the ideological break with the mother country promulgated by the Proclamation Line of 1763, particularly for governmental leaders and Virginia’s landed gentry, served to push the colonies into rebellion in the following decade.”

Data from the first U.S. Census show that slavery had been common even in northern colonies and Colonial Williamsburg Foundation’s official site describes how it had embedded itself in the American colonies, becoming the basis for great wealth creation. Colonial Williamsburg further documents how Lord Mansfield, Chief Justice of the King’s Bench’s 1772 ruling in Somerset v Stewart threatened slavery’s continued existence, with many slaves understanding the ruling as effectively abolishing slavery. Some slaves in the colonies even invoked it to seek their freedom.

Not surprisingly, the American elite, plantation owners, shipping magnates – whose ships carried not only slaves but slave-produced goods – saw a break with Great Britain as protecting
The first day of school is a kind of New Year’s Day for families and for Alexandria City Public Schools teachers and staff. The excitement of a new school year creates “getting to know you” challenges for everyone connected with the schools.

Parents new to Alexandria or ACPS may be uncertain about the best ways to reach teachers to seek or offer important information about their children’s school experience. There are several options, some more effective than others.

Shortly after being inaugurated, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) announced an email tip line for “folks to send us reports and observations” on objectionable lessons, and he promised that the commonwealth would catalogue it all. According to the Aug. 16 edition of The Washington Post, tip line communications, and state government responses, were deemed confidential because they are claimed to be the governor’s working papers and correspondence and thus not subject to public disclosure.

While the tip line’s practical communications utility seems limited, anyone currently or formerly connected with the school system will likely be drawn into conversations, positive or negative, about the school experiences of the children of friends and neighbors.

When the concern is a teacher’s style or approach, or the teacher’s interactions with students, and the question, “Did you talk to the teacher about your issue?” is asked, the answer, with surprising regularity, is “No” or “Not yet.”

There are any number of reasons, including language barriers, why parents or guardians concerned about their child’s classroom experience decline, at least initially, to talk to the teacher involved. Even so, in the long run those reasons rarely justify letting a problem fester.

And, expecting action by the indirect approach – expressing a concern about a child’s teacher to a federal or state official, city councilor, school board member or school administrator – is traveling the long way around. The issue usually cannot be resolved successfully without involving the teacher.
Alexandria’s other labor titan

Writing about the history of organized labor in Alexandria often begins and ends with a discussion of John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers, and the Congress of Industrialized Organizations, who lived in the Lee-Fendall House at 614 Oronoco St. Lewis was undoubtedly a towering figure in American organized labor, but Alexandria was also the birthplace of another prominent union organizer, Lucy Randolph Mason.

Mason’s family had deep roots in Virginia, and she was related to George Mason, John Marshall and Robert E. Lee. Despite her aristocratic pedigree, Lucy Randolph Mason dedicated herself to a progressive vision of the United States and the South, with improved lives for both white and Black women.

Born in Alexandria in 1882, Mason started working for the Richmond Young Women’s Christian Association as a stenographer in 1914. In 1923, the Richmond YWCA appointed her its general secretary. Her work there caught the attention of other prominent reformers, leading to her appointment as the secretary of the National Consumers League in New York. It was the only time she moved out of the South.

While at the National Consumers League, Mason became a fervent believer in collective bargaining and labor rights. Her work attracted the attention of Lewis, who recruited her to lead the newly formed CIO public relations efforts in the South in 1937. Although based in Atlanta, Mason traveled all over the Southeast, often into territory hostile to union organizing. Her storied lineage and genteel manner opened doors for the CIO, and in several instances, prevented violence against strikers.

Mason’s convictions led her to oppose the white supremacy that she saw so often. A close friend of Virginia and Albert Durr – who also lived in Alexandria for many years, and later paid the bail for Rosa Parks – Mason helped found the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. One of her ideological allies and best friends, Eleanor Roosevelt, paid tribute to Lucy Randolph Mason in the forward to Mason’s autobiography, noting Mason’s fighting spirit contrasting with her mild-mannered, genteel appearance. This Labor Day, let’s remember Lucy Randolph Mason, the other titan of American organized labor from Alexandria.

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

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likely raise issues of eminent domain, something the Times has opposed in the past. It would also mean a street that is difficult to cross safely and easily, despite the Times’ claim to be concerned with pedestrian safety.

The Times also repeats the canard that development causes traffic. If the Times is worried about this, they should oppose parking minimums for new development which encourage more car ownership. In fact, when we limit the number of people who can live in the city, we do not eliminate traffic but instead push people to live further out and to cut through the city to get to jobs. More cut-through traffic, more emissions, more greenhouse gasses and more waste of people’s time and money. The way to deal with traffic is to leverage density with new transit and with walkable mixed-use neighborhoods. A new gold standard bus rapid transit line is the ideal way to start that transformation.

-Ken Notis,
Alexandria

Weekly Poll

Last Week

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

50% I won’t be going.
28% I’d like to attend at least one concert.
18% I have never been to a concert but would like to.
4% Yes! I have season tickets.

This Week

Would you consider adopting or fostering one of the 4,000 beagles found at the Envigo facility?

A) Yes, I have reached out already.
B) I’d love to but can’t.
C) No.
D) What happened at Envigo?
FIRST THURSDAY: SHOW YOUR SPIRIT is a series of free outdoor street festivals that bring the community together around a fun theme, benefiting a local non-profit. Wear your school/team colors and head out to the Avenue in Del Ray for live music by Stop Thief!, themed activities and more. This month’s non-profit is Safe Space NOVA, an organization dedicated to providing a safe, accepting, and supportive environment to combat challenges faced by LGBTQ+ youth.

Time: 6 p.m.
Location: The Avenue in Del Ray
Information: https://www.visitdelray.com/firstthursday

HEALTH AND SAFETY COORDINATING COMMITTEE will hold a regular meeting free to the public. Participants interested in participating on zoom must register to receive login information.

Time: 8 to 9 a.m.
Location: 301 King St.
Information: https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=45687

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Time: 2 to 3:15 p.m.
Location: 614 Oronoco St.

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Time: 9 to 10:30 a.m.
Location: 533 Montgomery St.
Information:
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