Chet Avery dies at 85

Living Legend worked to make city accessible
BY KASSIDY MCDONALD

Chetster "Chet" Pike Avery Jr., a Living Legend of Alexandria and an advocate for people with disabilities, died on Sept. 8. He was 85. For more than 50 years, the longtime resident worked to make Alexandria a more accessible and inclusive place for everyone.

Avery was born in Sanford, Maine, on Aug. 1, 1937, to Chester, Sr. and Gladys Avery. At age 16, he began to lose vision in his left eye, and a year later at 17, he became fully blind. He graduated from Harvard University in 1960 with his B.A. in history, and remained at Harvard to complete his M.A. in counseling and education. Avery met his wife, fellow Harvard graduate Sabra Allen, in graduate school. They married and had a son, Bradford B. Avery, in 1964.

Avery began his career working as a teacher. In 1967, the Averys moved to Alexandria, to a home on Linden Street. Avery worked for the federal government, first at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and then at the Department of Education, until his retirement in 1996. While working for the federal government, Avery oversaw the development of a handbook on federal student financial aid; served in the Office of Special Education monitoring the implementation of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the first disability civil rights law enacted in the United States, which protects qualified individuals from discrimination based on their disability; and then in the Secretary's Office of Disability Concerns, according to his Living Legends of Alexandria profile.

He served on more than 25 boards and commissions, including the Traffic and Parking Board and the Human Rights Commission.

“Although he was Harvard-educated no one was above or beneath him – he was the epitome of a compassionate human being.”

– Matt Harris, chair, Human Rights Commission

Resident appeal denied

City Council proceeds with Polk Avenue sidewalk, parking elimination
BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

City Council held its first public hearing of the 2022-2023 year on Saturday. With a large portion of the meeting consumed by debate about a possible sidewalk on Polk Avenue in the West End. After hours of public discussion, council opted to reject an appeal from neighbors to keep the sidewalk from being built.

The decision follows the Traffic and Parking Board’s unanimous recommendation to remove nine parking spaces on Polk Avenue in support of the sidewalk installation. There is currently a sidewalk gap between Pelham Street and Palmer Place, forcing people to walk in the street or cross it in order to continue along the route.

The new sidewalk will fill the existing gap and connect the two dead-end parts. While the construction will likely help neighborhood students walk to James K. Polk Elementary School and Hammond Middle School, it will also eliminate about 18% of current parking spaces in the area.

During the public comment period, many neighbors expressed opposition to the sidewalk installation, asserting that the nine parking spaces in question were indispensable.

Kathy Burns – the appellant and nearby Polk resident who, along with 154 other neighbors, signed a petition to file an appeal against the Traffic and Parking Board’s July approval – encouraged coun-

City Council held its first public hearing of the 2022-2023 year on Saturday.

Homes
Old Town couple transforms historic home into modern oasis.
Page 19

Real Talk
Learn how to build generational wealth.
Page 29
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City to hold Soil Collection Ceremony

The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project will hold a soil collection ceremony on Saturday at 501 King St. in memory of two lynching victims, Josephy McCoy and Benjamin Thomas, according to a news release.

At the ceremony, soil will be drawn from two wooden vessels that eighth grade Jefferson-Houston IB School students designed. It will then be placed into jars and given to the Equal Justice Initiative.

McCoy was lynched at the southeast corner of Cameron and Lee Streets on April 23, 1897. Two years later, on Aug. 8, 1899, Thomas was pulled from the city’s jail and dragged more than half-a-mile by a white lynch mob.

ACRP will receive a steel pillar that memorializes McCoy and Thomas to be transported to a permanent space of remembrance in the City of Alexandria at a future date. ACRP will also take a pilgrimage on Oct. 6 to 10 to deliver the soil to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama.

Visit alexandriava.gov/Historic for more information.

ACPS responds to state changes

Alexandria City Public Schools responded to a proposal by Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R-VA), that included new model policies.

According to the Virginia Department of Education’s 2022 Model Policies in Virginia’s Public Schools, "For any athletic program or activity that is separated by sex, the appropriate participation of students shall be determined by sex; Students shall use bathrooms that correspond to his or her sex; Overnight travel accommodations, locker rooms and other intimate spaces used for school-related activities and events shall be based on sex; For any school program, event, or activity, including extracurricular activities that are separated by sex, the appropriate participation of students shall be determined by sex; [School Division] personnel shall refer to each student using only the pronouns appropriate to the sex appearing in the student’s official record - that is, male pronouns for a student whose legal sex is male, and female pronouns for a student whose legal sex is female; where ‘sex’ means biological sex."

The guidance will now go through a 30-day public comment period, after which VDOE will sift through comments and submit a final version approved by Jillian Balow, the state’s superintendent.

If approved, transgender students in Virginia school districts will only use bathrooms and locker rooms based on their assigned sex at birth, and only participate on athletic teams associated with their assigned sex at birth. Pronouns used by transgender students in the classroom would align with the student’s sex at birth rather than their gender identity.

The Virginia Department of Education says the basis for these new rules is to support the rights of parents to determine their child’s exposure to LGBTQ issues, according to NPR.

ACPS responded to Youngkin’s proposal by sending a letter vowing their commitment to gender-affirming policies within their school system.

“ACPS PROTECTS TRANS KIDS.” She also tweeted a link to a WUSA9 news story with the caption, “Trans kids: We see you. You are safe with us.”

School Board Member Ashley Simpson Baird changed her Twitter profile picture to an image of a transgender button which says, “ACPS PROTECTS TRANS KIDS.”

At the end of the letter sent out to families, ACPS listed resources for students and families who may be affected by the recent announcement of the policies. To reach CrisisText text: CONNECT to 85511. To call CrisisLink dial: 703-527-4077.

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Because everyone needs a home.
On Oct. 1, the Alexandria Fire Department will install smoke alarms in the East Lynhaven Gateway neighborhood at 9 a.m., according to a news release. The Alexandria Smoke Alarm Safety Installation Task Force, which was designed by the Alexandria Fire Department, Friendship Firehouse and the American Red Cross, will provide working smoke alarms to neighborhoods in Alexandria.

ASSIST is partnering with the American Red Cross to provide in-home fire visits to ensure there is a working smoke alarm as part of their "Sound the Alarm" event.

Those interested in volunteering to ensure families facing home emergencies have the necessary resources can register to volunteer through the American Red Cross website. Once registered through the Red Cross, enter zip code 22304 and click on "In Home Fire Safety Visits – Sound the Alarm Safety Visits – Sound the Alarm Alexandria, VA," to find the event and register to volunteer. Registered volunteers are asked to report to the Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center at 8 a.m. for a briefing on the day of the event.

For more information, reach out to Firefighter Ashley Whisonant, community outreach coordinator, at 703-746-5217 or ashley.whisonant@alexandriava.gov.

East Lynhaven Gateway gets smoke alarms

Early voting begins for General Election

Early voting in the city will begin tomorrow for the General Election, with the ballot including a contest for the United States House of Representatives.

Running for the 8th district, which represents Alexandria, is incumbent Don Beyer as a Democrat, Karina Lipsman as a Republican and Teddy Fikre as an independent.

All registered voters in the state can vote by mail or in person. The deadline to vote is Nov. 5 at 5 p.m. In-person voting will take place at the Office of Voter Registration & Elections, located at 132 N. Royal St. and Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, located at 5005 Duke St.

All mail-in ballots must be received by the Office of Voter Registration & Elections by Oct. 28 at 5 p.m. Ballot drop boxes will be available at polling places on Nov. 8 from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and an outdoor drop box is located in front of the Office of Voter Registration & Elections at all times through Nov. 8 at 7 p.m.

The deadline to register to vote is Oct. 17. For more information, visit alexandriava.gov/Elections.
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OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
CHET AVERY

Including the Special Education Advisory Committee for the Alexandria Public Schools, the Alexandria Human Rights Commission, the Virginia State Rehabilitation Council, the Virginia Assistive Technology System Advisory Council and the Washington Ear.

He served on the Alexandria Commission on Persons with Disabilities for 36 years. For more than 25 years, Avery worked on the Alexandria Human Rights Commission.

Matt Harris, longtime chair of the Human Rights Commission and a fellow New Englander, often drove Avery to and from their meetings. He said that Avery was a pillar of knowledge in both the city and in all areas of human rights.

“Although he was Harvard-educated no one was above or beneath him – he was the epitome of a compassionate human being. He had a disability, but was not limited or defined by it. He gave me insights and views that I never before contemplated. He was an exceedingly fair and enlightened person, but most of all he had the courage to stand up for what was right,” Harris said in a statement. “He was also a great family person and spouse to Sabra. It was among my greatest honors to speak at the Room 2000 dedication ceremony on his and Sabra’s behalf.”

According to Harris, one particular story from years ago best exemplifies Avery’s modest character.

“On the eve of Election Day in 2006, a large rally took place on Market Square. Chet was with his granddaughter and wife, and they needed to go into city hall for something. Chet’s young granddaughter was sitting on his lap and reading a book to him. Another person saw this and asked the granddaughter what she was reading, asked her how old she was and if she liked to read. He then walked away. Sabra saw the tail-end of the conversation and asked Chet if he knew who the man was. Chet did not; it was Bill Clinton,” Harris said.

Some specific areas of the city that Avery had improved include advocating for accessible courtrooms for people with disabilities and having voting

SEE CHET AVERY

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machines in Alexandria that people with disabilities can easily use independently to participate in elections.

Joel Snyder, PhD and president of Audio Description Associates, LLC, was a friend of Avery and interviewed him for his book, “The Visual Made Verbal.”

"Chet was a dear friend and an important contributor to the development of audio description. His quick wit and easy-going manner are qualities that I admired," Snyder said in a tribute to Avery.

Avery served as a member of the Board of Directors of The Washington Ear and played a major role in developing the first descriptive videos in theaters.

"[Avery] proposed ‘audio captions’ on film for blind people. Here in the Washington, DC area, he helped Arena Stage create an access committee to advise Arena on ways to make theater accessible. Much of the focus was then on an assistive listening system designed to boost sound for people who are hard-of-hearing.

Once again Chet wondered aloud if the “audio caption” idea could be employed using the same equipment – except with individual voicing descriptions during the pauses between lines of dialogue and critical sound elements.” Snyder said.

Avery also served on the original board of directors for the Metropolitan Washington Ear.

"[They are] a closed-circuit radio reading service for people who are blind or for those who don't otherwise have access to print. The Ear went on to build the world's first audio description service," Snyder detailed.

Avery has won many accolades and recognition for his dedication to accessibility. He won Alexandrian of the Year, John Duty Collins Outstanding Advocate for Persons with Disabilities, Sanford (Maine) High School Hall of Fame, Outstanding Leadership, Employee of the Year, a Living Legend of Alexandria and he was named as one of the 200 community leaders who have shaped the life of the City of Alexandria, according to a 2010 proclamation.

In the proclamation, former Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille officially made Oct. 26 “Chet and Sabra Avery Day,” to recognize the couple’s effort to enhance the lives of people with disabilities in the community and beyond.

Jean Kelleher, director of Alexandria’s Office of Human Rights, knew Avery well for many years.

"Chet Avery was a brilliant, tenacious and politically savvy advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities. He challenged all of us in city government to do more and be better,” Kelleher said in a statement. "Chet and Sabra used to walk down King Street in Old Town every morning, and they were stopped by many for conversation along the way. He will be missed."

"Chet is very much missed – but his inspiration and his wise counsel remains with me. For that, I will always be grateful," Snyder said.

"Chet is a great loss for the entire community," Harris said. "I will miss him and always aspire to be a fraction of the person he was.”

Avery is survived by his wife Sabra, his son Bradford and two granddaughters. No funeral or memorial service is planned at this time.

-kmcdonald@alextimes.com

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Every street should have a sidewalk on both sides, full stop, period,”
- Justin Wilson, mayor

CITY COUNCIL FROM 1
cil to at least defer its decision to a later date. She argued that the loss of nine parking spaces would negatively affect neighbors and claimed there is no recorded history of a car hitting a pedestrian in the area. She asked council to further explore the possibility of implementing a crosswalk instead of a sidewalk.

“What the school officials and parents and concerned residents are looking for is a safe pedestrian crossing on Polk Avenue,” Burns said. “That option should not be limited only to impervious sidewalk.”

Another resident, Shirley Downs, echoed Burns’ sentiments. Downs said an audit still needed to be conducted of the amount of children going to Polk Elementary. She said that neighboring apartment and condominium complexes struggle to find parking spaces at varying points throughout the day.

“The need to complete an audit of schoolchildren going to Polk and review the environmental issues suggests that it might be a good idea to delay the final vote until data and cost estimates are available to try and reach an agreement which will not take away needed parking and still protect the park,” Downs said. “KMS [Townhomes] parking is so constrained and difficult that we regularly spend 20 to 25 minutes looking for parking.

Vice Mayor Amy Jackson asked Downs to specify what time of day she couldn’t find parking, to which Downs replied that there were two available spaces on her block on Vail Street at 8:30 p.m., and when she came back at 8:53 p.m., there were none.

“You can’t get in at Van Dorn, you can’t get Richenbacher, you can’t get Vail, and

they just go like dominos. They fill up … and then everyone has to go over to Pelham and to Polk in order to find anything,” Downs added. “And so everybody just spends all this time. If you’re at dinner, if you’re at school, if you’re at a job, if you run errands and come back, you’re stuck.”

Yet others expressed support for the project. One speaker, Andrea Deitz, who lives at the top of North Pelham Street, said that the Polk Avenue curve gets busy during school drop-off and pickup hours and is thus a hazard to pedestrians.

“I believe this is critical and demonstrates the city’s commitment to children, safety, education, and the environment by providing a safe ‘green’ way for children to get to school,” Deitz said. “I am excited about this project.”

Additionally, Laura Rodriguez, representing the James K. Polk Elementary School Parent Teacher Association, shared the group’s support for the project, after it was identified in the 2018 Safe Routes to School study.

“One of our highest priorities as a PTA is to advocate for the safety of students and we see the proposed sidewalk as a way to ensure that our students, and the students attending Francis C. Hammond Middle School, remain safely out of the street as they walk to school,” Rodriguez said. “We encourage the City of Alexandria to move forward with the proposed sidewalk continuation project. We are committed to supporting all students’ right to a safe route to school.”

During discussion, councilors discussed concerns raised at public comment, particularly regarding the elimi-
Councilor Canek Aguirre questioned if there was any possible way for staff to keep parking spaces after installing the new sidewalk.

Complete Streets Program Manager Alexandria Carroll said the street does not have enough width to accommodate parking along the sidewalk. Allowing parking would change the condition of the street so that two vehicles could not pass side by side.

“Just a reminder that this is at a corner where there is a bend in the roadway,” Carroll said. “We do not recommend adding parking in addition to the sidewalk because we want to continue to allow residents to pass each other side by side.”

Jackson raised the possibility of installing a sidewalk, keeping the parking and making the road a one-way street. This way, she said, the street would be safe for pedestrians as well as able to accommodate those trying to find a parking spot.

But Yon Lambert, director of Transportation & Environmental Services, said staff has not analyzed that specific solution and would need to follow very specific criteria to introduce one-way streets.

“I think if we were gonna propose something like transitioning a street from two-way to one-way, we would want to step back and see what the implications would be for the wider street network, including bus and emergency vehicle access,” Lambert said. “... I think that would require more study and analysis and cost and staff resources and time.”

Jackson requested that staff look into potentially conducting a traffic study in the area, to which Lambert said his office would “assess and prioritize that among the others that [they] have right now.”

During the meeting, Mayor Justin Wilson called for improvement of public discourse between staff and residents, specifically expressing dissatisfaction with the Traffic and Parking Commission and the PTA. In the appeal, for example, several sentences read that the Traffic and Parking Commission is “programmed by staff to vote the way staff dictates,” “larded with members who are bikers and devotees of smart growth and safe streets policy approach” and includes several new members who are “not likely to buck staff.”

“We’ve got to focus on ideas and focus on the substance of the policy questions that we’re dealing with and not attack people who are involved in this process, particularly people who are voicing their opinion,” Wilson said. “As long as I’m up here, I’m not going to tolerate that.”

Ultimately, City Council generally agreed the benefits of the proposed sidewalk outweighed any potential negative impacts.

“Every street should have a sidewalk on both sides, full stop, period,” Wilson said. “I don’t believe that’s a debatable question in my mind. I think that’s a basic component of a road. We don’t question other components of roads and I don’t think we should question the fact that there should be a sidewalk on both sides.”

Aguirre made the motion to deny the appeal, with Councilor Sarah Bagley seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

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-oanderson@alextimes.com
The 20th Annual Old Town Art Festival returned to John Carlyle Square last weekend in a lively event that included patrons, passersby and a variety of works of artists from all over the country. Among the diverse displays were paintings, photography, sculptures, mixed media, fiber and wood pieces. The festival – which is rated as one of the top 100 art shows in Sunshine Artist Magazine – featured artwork that is all juried, providing a high level of quality and creativity.
NOVA Parks Board Chair Cate Magennis Wyatt, Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson and ACPS Interim Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt sign the Deed of Park Creation.

NOVA Parks announces Winkler plans

Goals include adding summer camps, more parking spaces

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

The Winkler Botanical Preserve and Northern Virginia Regional Parks Authority recently announced an ownership transfer of the nearly 45-acre preserve to the park agency, which was cemented in a deed signing ceremony that took place on Sept. 15.

The Winkler Organization gifted $1 million for capital improvements and more than $3 million as an operating endowment in support of the preserve’s educational programs and other needs. The organization also gifted the City of Alexandria $1 million to improve community engagement with the preserve and learning resources for potential visitors.

Some of the attendees included Mayor Justin Wilson, NOVA Parks Board Chair Cate Magennis Wyatt, former Mark Winkler Company President and CEO Randal Kell and Alexandria City Public Schools Interim Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt.

At the ceremony, Kay-Wyatt shared her excitement about the preserve as an educational resource for ACPS students.

“We are grateful to have this opportunity to bring the City of Alexandria students into nature’s classroom,” Kay-Wyatt said. “... I am so honored that we’re going to have this opportunity and I want to thank everyone for [being] willing to partner and welcome our students.”

Kell, who served as president of the Winkler Botanical Preserve for more than 30 years called the ceremony a “great day” for everyone involved in the ownership transfer.

“In so many ways, this is a match made in heaven. How

SEE NOVA PARKS | 14
Obituary

Phillip Todd Saims

Phillip Todd Saims, of Alexandria, Va., was a man devoted to his family and friends, God, his country and his career. He lost his hard-fought battle with cancer on Sept. 16 at age 56.

Phil was born to Sarah Huff and Bernard Saims on Feb. 20, 1966, in Gary, Ind. After graduating from Hobart High School in 1984, Phil received his B.A. in business administration from Averett College in Virginia. He proudly served his country as a member of the United States Air Force and was eventually stationed at the Pentagon, by which he came to call Virginia home.

An accomplished hospitality industry professional, Phil built and maintained an extensive network of other industry professionals and held various roles in sales over the last three decades. He most recently served as vice president of sales for Federal Conference in Alexandria and was a board member of the D.C. Chapter of the International Association of Exhibitions and Events.

Phil cared deeply for his partner, Steven Cato, whom he met in 2008. They spent 14 wonderful years together, building a beautiful life and home in Alexandria. Phil was preceded in death by his mother, Sarah (William) Huff, and his father, Bernard (Sharon) Saims. He is survived by his brother, Douglas (Stephen Brunelle) Saims, and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Even in the face of his diagnosis with lung cancer in 2020, Phil found a way to be a light for others and built a community of fellow cancer warriors to help him endure his fight and inspire others to do the same. He was determined to put everything he had into his battle and fought hard through countless doctors’ visits and hospital stays, radiation and chemotherapy. He passed away peacefully at home, joining God and his mother in Heaven.

A funeral mass will be held for Phil on Sept. 29 at 2 p.m. at the Basilica of Saint Mary, located at 310 Royal Street in Alexandria. The service will also be livestreamed online. In lieu of flowers, contributions to the GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer are appreciated.

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wonderful it is to have such an experienced, successful organization such as the parks authority, which shares so many of the goals, aspirations and ambitions that the preserve has had for more than 50 years, step up to the plate to lead the preserve for future generations,” he said, specifically thanking NOVA Parks Executive Director Paul Gilbert for his “steadfast” but “never pushy” interest in working with the preserve.

According to Gilbert, Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA) introduced Kell to him several years ago, which led to a continued dialogue and ongoing partnership between the preserve and NOVA Parks. Some examples of this are the several organized hikes of Winkler that NOVA Parks has led over the past few years, complete with naturalists and the handling of off-site parking.

The trusted relationship between the two parties made the eventual decision to transfer ownership smooth and seamless, Gilbert said.

“It’s near and dear to their heart. There’s a time and a place for everything, and they were ready to let others carry their vision and mission on,” he explained.

The Winker Botanical Preserve marks NOVA Parks’ 35th regional park.

From an operations perspective, Winkler closely resembles several of NOVA Parks’ other properties, such as Potomac Overlook Regional Park in Arlington and the Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna, in that all three offer summer camps and school programs.

Because of this, Gilbert said NOVA Parks assuming ownership of the preserve is a “very good fit.”

“We have different sites in different places that have a lot of similarities, which means we have the in-house exper-

tise to run a place like Winkler well,” Gilbert said.

Future plans for the site include hiring an onsite manager to work alongside city government and school officials to develop programming options for students. Next year, NOVA Parks also plans to bring back summer camps, which ceased in 2016 after Jodie Smolik, the preserve’s former executive director, retired.

Additionally, Gilbert said that while the site is very well maintained, it currently has inadequate parking. At 10 parking spots – one of which is handicapped only – it’s difficult to organize larger guided hikes and for school groups to visit, since there is not a place for buses to turn around.

NOVA Parks is looking to remedy this in the most environmentally sensitive way possible, Gilbert said.

“We don’t need parking for 100 people, but we need parking so that we can have a tree identification hike on a Saturday and be able to have those people come and do that,” Gilbert said. “... We want people to enjoy nature, and to do that you need them to be able to access the site.”

An ongoing discussion related to the preserve has revolved around how to engage more community members. In fact, more than half of respondents to an ALXNow poll last year said they had never heard of the Winkler Botanical Preserve before. More than anything else, NOVA Parks hopes to change that.

 “[Winkler is] really a remarkable forest that’s in the middle of Alexandria,” Gilbert said. “When you’re in the Winkler Preserve, you could easily think you’re in the midst of hundreds of acres because it is such a beautiful, intact forest and everywhere you look is just picture perfect. We’d love to be able to share that experience with more people.”

–oanderson@alextimes.com
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10 Singer Grande, to fans 135 Name that anagrams to "mare"
11 Norse god of mischief 136 Name that anagrams to "mare"
12 They're typed before passwords 137 Name that anagrams to "mare"
13 Name that anagrams to "mare"
24 Gomez of "Only Murders in the Building" 75 "_ the season _"
25 Comparative conjunction 76 "_ the season _"
26 Shotgun, e.g. 77 "_ the season _"
27 Slender wind 78 "_ the season _"
28 Transgression 79 "_ the season _"
29 Surplus 80 "_ the season _"
30 They're opened in Chrome 81 "_ the season _"
35 Shower stool wood 82 "_ the season _"
36 They're opened in Chrome 83 "_ the season _"
37 Slender woodwind 84 "_ the season _"
38 Transgression 85 "_ the season _"
39 They're opened in Chrome 86 "_ the season _"
40 Passport or Pilot, e.g. (Abbr.) 87 "_ the season _"
41 Not many 88 "_ the season _"
42 Have chemistry? 89 "_ the season _"

Solutions from last week
CHESTER AVERY JR. (85), of Alexandria, Sept. 8, 2022
WILLIAM BANKS (80), of Alexandria, Sept. 11, 2022
ARTHUR BUSWELL (89), formerly of Alexandria, Aug. 30, 2022
LOIS CAMPBELL (80), of Alexandria, Sept. 11, 2022
DANIEL CONYERS (68), of Alexandria, Sept. 3, 2022
MINNIE GARNER (93), of Alexandria, Sept. 11, 2022

DEATH NOTICES

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CICADA SWAHILI POLISH
APED MAKE NONDIFFERENCE
REED GAIL MONTE BATON
DIS S OATS ELISE SPOTS

FUNNY BUSINESS by Rebecca Goldstein, edited by David Steinberg

45 ___ Dhabi
46 Actress Vardalos
48 "The X-Files" vehicles
49 Indian spice blend
50 Apt name for a hair salon?
51 Mints with an Arctic Strawberry flavor
52 East Wing occupants
53 Name that anagrams to "mare"
54 Heaps and heaps
55 Palindromic Indian flour
56 "Don't share this" doc
57 Get-together, casually
58 Pointed pub projectile
59 "_ Coast, best coast"
When President Franklin D. Roosevelt called the attack on Pearl Harbor a date that “will live in infamy,” his choice of words sewed the memory into American history. By contrast, April 23, 1897, and Aug. 8, 1899, when white citizens lynched two young Black Alexandrians and terrorized this city’s Black residents, no one spoke such words. No one stitched these two dates into our collective memory.

Yet, for the relatives of Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas those dates marked the moment when unimaginable pain was seared into their hearts. Likewise, the lynchings of these two Black youth and the terror that followed scarred the collective conscience of Alexandria’s Black Community.

In 1897, within hours of being accused of sexually assaulting his employer’s 8-year-old daughter, a lynch mob of hundreds of white Alexandria men twice broke down the doors of the police station before rooting through the cells to find native son Joseph McCoy. They dragged him through the streets, beating and kicking him and then they hanged McCoy from a lamp post at the corner of Cameron and Lee Streets. McCoy’s grandmother who raised him had died two years earlier, leaving it to his aunt to go to the undertakers. When she saw Joseph’s bruised face and crushed skull, she said, “As the people killed him, they will have to bury him.”

As evening fell over the next couple nights, the local militia and armed white Alexandrians marched through the streets, prepared, and waiting for the Black community to retaliate. Alexandria’s African Americans lived in a state of fear under what was essentially martial law enforced by an armed mob patrolling the streets a few feet from their front doors. No Black person dared go out. Instead, they stayed indoors trying to metabolize the lynching of a Black community member carried out by their neighbors.

After that, Joseph McCoy’s closest relatives moved to Washington, D.C.

In 1899, 16-year-old Benjamin Thomas was accused by the 7-year-old white girl who lived next door of being too familiar. Her father reported an assault to police and swore out a warrant. That night, Thomas’ mother, Elizabeth, watched helplessly as police came into her home, cuffed her boy, and walked him out of the house. Just like that, they took her Benjamin from her and his siblings.

Black Alexandrians rallied around Thomas, their leaders plead with police and the mayor to protect the teen from a threatened lynching. They were arrested for their impudence. The next night, a lynch mob that may have numbered up to 2000 terrorized prisoners at the City Jail as they hunted for Thomas. When they found the boy, they tied him up and dragged him for half a mile over cobble stones - ignoring his agonized cry for his Mama. What did Elizabeth feel when she read in the newspaper that he called for her? How did she and his siblings deal with knowing that after he was hanged from a lamp post at King and Fairfax Streets, Benjamin didn’t die for 20 minutes, and when he did, he was naked and bleeding in the street as white men kicked him?

In the following days, again whites armed themselves. The militia was recalled and posted around the city to watch for a violent Black retaliation that never came. The lamp lit streets were again patrolled by white Alexandrians. Behind closed doors, Black Alexandrians had to sit with the knowledge that they couldn’t save Elizabeth’s innocent teenage boy from a murderous gang of white neighbors.

Soon after her son’s death, Elizabeth moved to Washington, D.C.

These events traumatized Black Alexandrians and kept them under Jim Crow’s thumb for another century. These events, however, were ignored by everyone else, struck from our collective history as though they never occurred.
That is until the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) began a conversation with its report, *Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror* that documented 4,743 lynchings in 12 Southern states between the end of the Civil War and World War II. Then they launched a movement with their Community Remembrance program to foster truthful dialogue about race and justice in an effort to bring about healing and reconciliation for traumatized communities.

In 2019, Alexandria’s City Council established the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) to partner with EJI with the mission of creating an inclusive community bound by equity. Since then, ACRP has held public education programs, erected historic markers at the sites of the lynchings, continues to research the lynchings of McCoy and Thomas and holds remembrance ceremonies for both men.

The EJI asks participating communities to host ceremonies to collect soil from the ground where lynchings occurred to memorialize the victims and recognize the terror that was inflicted on the community.

On Saturday, September 24, 2022, Alexandrians are invited to a Soil Collection Ceremony at Market Square at 4 p.m. where participants will have an opportunity to touch earth excavated from sites known intimately by McCoy and Thomas. Two wooden vessels designed and built by eighth grade students at Jefferson-Houston IB K-8 School will house soil representing the lives of each man. Participants will take soil and place it into glass jars bearing each man’s name that will be delivered by the Alexandria community to the EJI on October 7, 2022.

Such traumatic aspects of our history are difficult to bear but city leadership, city staff, community leaders, and community members are committed to sharing Alexandria’s history in its entirety.

“By confronting the failures of our past, we take steps in creating a more equitable future for the Commonwealth and or nation,” Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine stated in a letter to ACRP, adding, “Your commitment to telling the full and truthful story of Alexandria’s history, is a step towards healing for our nation.”

The days of infamy suffered by McCoy, Thomas, their relatives, and the entire African American community are no longer unspoken. Alexandria City High School students, who will be among the 170 Alexandrians making a pilgrimage to Montgomery, Ala., in October now know their names and our history too.

*This piece was provided by the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project.*
Three tips for seeking health care

BY FAMILY FEATURES

As intently as ever, Americans may choose to weigh their options, read online reviews and shop around to ensure they are choosing the best product or service at the best price. Health care should not be any different. People want options for their health care, receiving personalized care at a reasonable price and at a location that is convenient and comfortable.

1. Shop around for health care

When people are not in an emergency situation, it is beneficial to shop around for the best price for health care services. Americans have a right to price transparency in health care, meaning they know the cost of services before receiving them. Hospitals operating in the United States are required to provide clear, accessible pricing information online about the items and services they provide, so do not be afraid to ask for pricing information upfront.

According to a survey from the Large Urology Group Practice Association, the largest urology trade association in the United States, nearly one-third of older Americans worry they won’t get the care they need at a location they choose for a price they can afford. Their concern comes as no surprise since hospitals are usually more expensive than independent practices compared to physicians employed by hospitals. Physician-owned practices also provide a greater level of personalization and responsiveness, have fewer preventable hospital admissions and have lower readmission rates than larger, hospital-owned practices.

3. Ask if telehealth options are available

Patients should ensure they receive the highest quality care possible and at the location of their choice. Telehealth or telemedicine is typically done online through a computer or cell phone, allowing patients to receive care from a health care provider without an in-person office visit. Telehealth options can help increase access to care by enabling patients to choose where they receive it.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many physicians began to expand access to care using telehealth. Congress made this increased use of telehealth possible and now has the opportunity to make permanent telehealth reforms, so every health care provider in America is permitted to deliver safe, high-quality care using telehealth technology.
Couple transforms classic home into modern oasis
BY KASSIDY MCDONALD

Julie Obiala and Jake Dowling have lived on South Lee Street since 2014, but their home hasn’t always looked as sleek and modern as it does now. Their home is a rare gem in Old Town, complete with huge windows in the main living space overlooking a luscious green patio and extensive shared backyard – something that is hard to find in a city like Alexandria.

Obiala and Dowling rented the house on S. Lee until they purchased it in 2019. The three-bedroom two-and-a-half bath home was built in 1953 and is around 1,800 square feet. The property backs up to Jones Point Park and is part of the Yates Gardens development in Old Town, which is a townhome community with its own style of Alexandria charm.

For Obiala, purchasing this property was a dream come true because of how much she had enjoyed the couple’s five years of renting the home.

“We had always loved the property and when it was time we jumped on it and bought it. And the great thing was, because we were renting it for so long, we had always imagined what changes we would like to make. So we had a lot of time to think about the various renovations that we would do,” Obiala said.

The two gutted the entire main floor in their home, which is where most of the renovations took place. The work started in April of 2020, the month after the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Alexandria. Although the community is mostly brick colonial townhomes – a signature of Old Town, once you step inside their home, the sleek and contemporary style of the main living space may come as a surprise.

“The biggest thing we wanted to do was create more...
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windows in the back, to improve the connectivity with the back yard, which is special for Old Town. So we redid the whole back wall,” Obiala said.

They removed the original windows that were smaller and awkwardly placed. They installed new, almost floor to ceiling windows in order to add dimension and more natural light within the space.

“Pretty much everything you see is new,” Obiala said about the main floor. “The floors, all the doors, everything. The staircase, the mantle, bookshelves, windows and of course the kitchen.”

Before the remodel, the kitchen was boxed in by walls. Once multiple walls were removed, the space immediately felt bigger. They were able to add an island to create more counter space, hanging modern lighting fixtures as well as new cabinetry to match the new more sleek aesthetic of the home.

As for the home’s aesthetic, Obiala’s taste is contemporary and chic – quite different from what the traditional decor of a house in Old Town may look like.

Besides the large windows being the focal point of the main living space, the home also features custom-built bookshelves that were specially designed for Obiala and Dowling’s shared love of books. Although she’s a self-proclaimed minimalist, Obiala has a passion for collecting books, and having them on display in their home was an important part of the design layout. They worked with a friend, Joanna Abizaid, an interior designer who owns a design company called Cline Rose.

The three worked on a floor plan, and Abizaid and a carpenter helped figure out how the bookshelves could fit in the space. The bookshelves look as though they could have always been a feature in the older home, but the decor makes them feel modern and clean.

As for the home’s aesthetic, Obiala’s taste is contemporary and chic – quite different from what the traditional decor of a house in Old Town may look like.

Julie Obiala and Jake Dowling began renovating their South Lee Street home in 2020.
like. The lines are clean, and reflective surfaces within the space make it feel more open. Modern style furnishings were chosen by Obiala to maximize the space. The kitchen flows into a sitting area, which then flows into the dining area. Various plants decorate the main space and help bring natural elements in, which was an important aspect for Obiala because the main space highlights their special outdoor living setup. The fireplace in the living area was converted from wood-burning to gas and the new mantle was constructed with the same material as the countertops, helping tie together the entire main floor.

“It’s been fun to reimagine an older space and an older home with more modern sensibility,” Obiala said. The contemporary and abstract art featured in the main living space includes pieces that Obiala and Dowling have collected over the years, which makes it personal for them both.

“The two contemporary/abstract pieces on the main floor – the oversized piece and the vertical piece that hangs in the corner over the Eames chair – and four pieces in the lower level are from a gallery in our old neighborhood in Los Manos, Chicago,” Obiala said. “I am a Chicago native and we lived there until 2011 when we moved to Old Town. The [gallery] specialized in supporting local artists, and we became friends with the owner as well as several of the artists whose pieces we now own. These pieces are a tie to our old life in Chicago, so we cherish them.”

Other art pieces – including an abstract goldendoodle collage that was purchased at Ivy Lane in Old Town to honor their dogs passing in 2019, and an abstract print over the fireplace called “16 Queens” by an artist named Jamie Reid that was purchased at an antique market in London due to Obiala’s love for abstract art, British music and history – are all purposefully placed within the space. Each art piece tells its own story and is special to both Obiala and Dowling.

“Julie’s passion and interest is design,” Dowling said. “She works for an architecture

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OBIALA
FROM | 22

firm actually. How I view it is the home flows into the patio where we spend time in the garden. It’s all tied to things we care about and that Julie cares about. It’s very reflective of her style and of our personalities. But it is her passion, and I’m along for the ride and loving it.”

Arguably the most unusual part of their property is the outdoor living space. To access this area, you walk downstairs into another family zone with a sitting area with a couch and chairs, desk for working from home, a wet bar and another bedroom off the living room. Similar to upstairs, this space used to be dark and drab; adding huge windows opened up the space and brought in more light to make it feel bigger.

Walking out the door from the downstairs living area leads to an expansive patio filled with plants, a dining table for outdoor entertaining and furniture for lounging.

The patio gate opens up to an expansive backyard with a garden that the two took up as a new hobby during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dowling noted that Obiala put in many pollinators, which attract bumblebees, butterflies and even a hummingbird moth to their space.

Dowling also said that an industrial railroad used to be located past the property line. Now, they find all kinds of wildlife like foxes, deer, groundhogs, owls, hawks and turtles. All the open space beyond the patio and garden is perfect for Obiala and Dowling’s two goldendoodles to romp around and play with the other dogs on the block.

“Each house, the property lines extend down to where a hill begins. Each property has that much of this area back here. While it’s technically each home’s own little sliver, it’s really just shared space, so all the kids that live on the block, all the dogs that live on the block, everyone is out here all the time. ... It becomes a really lovely communal space which is great because we have such great neighbors,” Obiala said. “It’s a really special community.”

They’ve had barbecues, graduation parties and even a neighbor’s christening in the outdoor communal space. Both Obiala and Dowling love the outdoor space and view a smaller home as a good tradeoff for this amenity. A common renovation in the area includes bumping houses out if there is room to build in the back, but the two were adamantly against sacrificing their outdoor living space for a little more room inside.

“Our next door neighbors, who are our best friends, had a daughter that graduated high school and they had a big party out here. People use this for all sorts of things,” Dowling said.

Next steps in their home renovation journey include tackling the three bedrooms.

“We were so fortunate to live here for as long as we did... it gave us so much time to imagine and to think about what we would like to do,” Obiala said. “In some ways, as painful as it was to wait as long as we had to, it was a blessing in disguise.”

-kmcdonald@alextimes.com
Fall into spring

How to prepare your garden for next year

BY KIM DAVIS

“It was a beautiful bright autumn day, with air like cider and a sky so blue you could drown in it.” – Diana Gabaldon, author of Outlander

Who has not reveled in the visceral beauty of a crisp fall day? With jewel tone leaves set against the bright blue sky, fall is a welcome relief from summer’s stifling heat. This interlude offers the perfect time to take a discerning look at Mother Nature’s impact on our gardens throughout the past six months. What survived and what did not? What steps might we consider making our gardens more appealing for spring? It is beneficial to take a walk around our gardens and assess their needs.

This will likely include repairing summer damage to our lawns, relocating plants that are not thriving in their current location, replacing plants that are on the wane and to consider adding an array of new bulbs to create that “wow” factor in the spring. Here are some ways to prepare your garden for springtime.

A timely item on the fall checklist is lawn care. The next two months are critical to refreshing and nourishing lawns in the aftermath of summer’s extreme heat. Soil compaction and heat stress cause most of the thin, brown grass we see at this time of year. Northern Virginia soil contains a lot of clay and very little sand, not ideal for growing a beautiful green lawn. Add to that contributing factors such as rainfall or lack thereof, irrigation issues and weather fluctuations, and you have a recipe for a bedraggled lawn by summer’s end.

To position your lawn to produce a beautiful green carpet next spring, most specialists recommend a protocol that consists of aerating, reseeding, replenishing soil nutrients and applying organic weed removal treatment in the fall, prior to the first freeze. This process helps cultivate deeper root growth, increase the percentage of seed germination, enhance water absorption and reduce runoff, boost microbial soil biodiversity, enrich the emerald green hue, thicken the turf and assist in crowding out weeds.

Highly rated professional lawn care companies are a viable option if you do not have time to do it yourself. If you take this route, a 2021 Consumer Reports article recommends choosing a professional that shows an interest in improving the health of your soil rather than promoting a specific product and one that uses a blend of turfgrass seeds. Check out company ratings and make sure the representative is concerned about the unique ecology of your yard, rather than a quick in-and-out service call.

Homeowners preferring a DIY option can improve lawns by following the steps outlined above. Aerating machines are available to rent through landscaping equipment rental companies. Do a little homework on the type of fertilizer and grass seed that suits your individual lawn.
Historic Old Town Home with rich history

Virginia was a colony when this home was built, with the Declaration of Independence still six years in the future. Historic buffs: The front portion of this 3,000-square-foot home dates to 1770 and was built as a modest two-room house. Over the centuries, it was expanded three times to its current size. It first housed a merchant, who sold it to a rope maker for the ships visiting Alexandria. The rear stable was re-built into a kitchen sometime in the late 1800s/early 1900s. Today, it stands as a four-bedroom, two-full and two and-a-half bath home that has seen Alexandria grow from its infancy to the bustling city it is today.

This delightful home is detached by virtue of the brick-walled north and south gardens which allow exquisite natural light into the house through abundant windows. The larger south garden features a grape arbor for shade. The floors are old wide-plank heart pine/ fir, and there are plenty of built-ins to showcase possessions and there are three fireplaces, although more existed at one point. Room sizes are very generous, with the primary being 20’x18’. The kitchen and baths were remodeled in the 1960s and 1970s, but the possibilities are exciting.

**Year built:** 1770
**Bathrooms:** 2+
**Bedrooms:** 4

**Address:**
304 N Pitt St.,
Alexandria, 22314

**Neighborhood:**
Old Town

**Price:** $1,800,000

**Contact:**
Peter Crouch
McEnearney Associates
Realtors, Old Town
pcrouch@mcenearney.com
www.crouchrealtygroup.com
703-244-4024

**HOME OF THE WEEK**

**Left:** Historic brick Georgian with double gardens. **Middle:** Living room with original fireplace and built-ins. **Right:** Dining room with built-ins and bay window.
There’s something wonderfully powerful about reading out loud.

Studies have shown that small children start school with a learning advantage if their parents or caregivers have spent many hours reading aloud to them. The cognitive abilities of older people are also enhanced if they spend just a few minutes daily reading out loud.

Powerful and brave words spoken aloud can change history, from “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself,” from Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s first inaugural address in 1933 to “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall,” spoken by President Ronald Reagan at Germany’s Brandenburg Gate in 1987.

A humorous passage in a book can make one chuckle if read silently, but those same words, if read aloud in a group, can leave people howling with laughter.

Prayers and passages spoken aloud simultaneously by congregations are a core element of rituals in faith communities. Such a moment will take place in Alexandria at 4 p.m. on Saturday at Market Square, when leaders from city faith communities will gather together at a soil collection ceremony for lynching victims Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas.

The words to the Black national anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” will be spoken aloud by Black and white faith leaders from across the city, some of whom come from congregations that many years ago broke apart because of race.

Beautiful words, spoken aloud, can heal and move – they can alter attitudes and actions. These are the words from the moving poem by James Weldon Johnson that will be read on Saturday:

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list’ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.
Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast’ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

To the editor:
A few weeks ago, my friend, Matt Harris, wrote to the Times, with his opinion on the new superintendent. But I disagree with the premise of his letter:

“Most importantly, (the new superintendent) Kay-Wyatt and the School Board need to stay in their respective lanes to optimize the shared goal of creating a world-class education for our children. Thankfully, the roles of each are simple: The superintendent works for the School Board, and the School Board works for the residents – period.” Let me lay out why I disagree.

First, everyone needs to work together, including parents, students and citizens, because creating good schools is our shared responsibility. Second, I don’t believe the superintendent “works for” the School Board. They are hired and can be fired by the School Board, but work for the whole city to make the schools a fantastic place for students, teachers and parents.

The reason Harris’ suggestion doesn’t work is that the School Board is not equipped, paid or responsible for being the superintendent’s supervisor. They have to hire the best person they can find, set the course, pass the budget and then react as issues arise. The superintendent is running the schools, just like our city manager – not City Council – is running the city.

Which brings me to my plan to reform our School Board, or at least the incredible imbalance that now exists. Currently, there are nine members, three elected from each of three wards. Yet the decisions they make affect the whole city, including...
Our View takes a hiatus

During the next eight weeks, the Alexandria Times will not be running Our View editorials. In its place, we welcome city residents to submit Our View columns on a topic of their choice and write between 500 and 600 words (longer submissions will either be cut or returned). We will begin running resident My Views in this space next week in the Sept. 29 issue. A reminder that the Times does not print personal attacks.

Your Views

WALKER

spending approximately one third of the city budget.

But if you took a poll, most residents would have no idea who the School Board members are. This is partly because even if they did cast a vote for the School Board, they didn’t even for six of the members. Sometimes there are only just enough candidates willing to run, so there is no contest, no campaigning and no forums to get to know the candidates.

Second, the chair is chosen by their colleagues, so voters have no direct say in who is chair. After they cast their vote, their attention probably drops off considerably. Third, I can imagine being on the School Board takes an incredible amount of time and attention to detail, but they are paid only $15,000 a year, with the chair making $17,000.

Is it expected that they do a full-time job, and commit the time and energy to the equivalent of a second job? Or is the expectation that only the wealthy or parents whose spouses make sufficient income can commit to be on the School Board?

The School Board needs to be strengthened, not only to tackle the issues that arise, but because schools are the first building block of democracy – and our democracy is currently under threat. If we don’t expand the connection between citizens and our school board, we could find ourselves with members who don’t reflect our values. They may want to ban books, dictate how race is taught or restrict rights for LGBTQ students.

We need more citizens to be engaged in education, whether they have kids in the public school system or not. Maybe they want to volunteer or move from other careers to help fill our national teacher shortage.

I believe we need to remove the ward system, and model our School Board after our City Council with seven members elected citywide and the chair running separately, so that they are chosen by voters. I also believe we need to pay School Board members in accordance with our expectations. Their election cycle is tied to the City Council elections, so why not their salary?

Perhaps their salary should be one half of the City Council salary, and the chair’s salary one half the mayor’s salary, or maybe it should be more. We would then have the chance to also have a primary to select the best candidates, or the top six would win seats in November.

Every voter would have a chance to select their choice for all the School Board seats as well as who the chair should be. The School Board would gain stature and – having been elected by the whole city, having an increased salary and being fewer in number – be a stronger check.

The city would benefit as the School Board, if modeled on the council, would surely become a proving ground for someone with ambitions for higher office. It is time we reform an outdated model of underpaid, part-time School Board into a more professional, decently compensated board for the 21st century, where the whole city gets a chance to choose the members and the leader.

-Boyd Walker, Alexandria
The poem and hymn known as the Black National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” originated in 1900, when a group of young men in Jacksonville, Florida were organizing a celebration for President Abraham Lincoln’s birthday.

James Weldon Johnson, educator, author, diplomat and activist, and his brother, J. Rosamond Johnson, composer, singer, actor and music supervisor, collaborated to write it. While pacing the front porch at their family home, James wrote the lyrics, handing each stanza to his brother, who set the poetry to music at the piano.

The brothers sent the manuscript to their New York publisher, Edward B. Marks, who mimeographed copies to be used by the chorus at the segregated Stanton School, where James was principal. Five hundred students sang it on Feb. 12, 1900, at Lincoln’s birthday festivities. Several months later, their publisher printed the song as “The National Negro Hymn.”

After the school burned down in the spring of 1901, the Johnsons moved to New York to pursue a career in show business. Along with Bob Cole, a Black composer who is considered to be one of the greatest in Black entertainment, they published more than 200 hundred songs.

While James and J. Rosamond were busy with their various careers, they forgot about the song they had created in Jacksonville. The school children, however, kept singing and sharing it until it had spread all over the South and to other parts of the United States. In 1919, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which James had helped found, adopted “Lift Every Voice and Sing” as its official song. In a spirit of reconciliation, faith leaders from historically Black and white churches in Alexandria will join together in reading the Black National Anthem during the remembrance Soil Collection Ceremony.

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” will be performed at the Soil Collection Ceremony that will be held for Alexandria’s two lynching victims, Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas.

OUT OF THE ATTIC

Weekly Poll

**Last Week**

Are you interested in recording an oral history for Alexandria's new Oral History Center?

- 67% No.
- 20% Yes, I plan to make an appointment.
- 10% Maybe someday when I'm older.
- 4% I'm not sure.

**This Week**

Will you attend the Soil Collection Ceremony on Saturday honoring Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas, who were lynched in Alexandria during the Jim Crow era?

- A) Yes.
- B) No.
- C) I'm not sure.
- D) I'm not aware of this ceremony.

Take the poll at alextimes.com
A gift that keeps on giving

How to build generational wealth
BY ELIZABETH LUCCHESI

Though fun memories, unique keepsakes and healthy genetics are treasured items your future family will inherit, your financial legacy is the head start they need.

Having wealth helps you earn more. For example, if a student’s college education is paid for by their parents, this person can skip student debt payments and save for their first home. This home becomes an asset that will gain equity and lead to higher lifetime earnings.

Generational wealth and who has it

Generational wealth refers to the money and assets passed down from one generation to the next. This wealth can include real estate, investments, businesses and other holdings.

According to the latest data on the national distribution of wealth from the Fed, Baby Boomers hold almost half of the real estate wealth in the United States. On the other hand, millennials have only 13% of the total real estate wealth as of 1Q 2022.

How to build wealth

1) Get educated
The first step toward preparing for the future is to make financial literacy a family value. Don’t assume your children will learn this skill in school.

Improving your financial literacy may feel intimidating and will certainly not happen overnight, but the resources are endless.

Once you’ve got the basics of budgeting and building credit, move on to more complicated topics like investments and insurance.

2) Invest in real estate
One of the most common ways people inherit and pass on generational wealth is with real estate. The median net worth for homeowners in 2019 was $255,000. This value is 40 times greater than those who don’t own a home.

When you’re a homeowner, you’re building equity. And equity makes a difference. Homeowners can use equity to grow wealth by making home improvements, padding their retirement, paying for college tuition or investing in business ventures.

Homeownership can allow social mobility and the ability to take risks that people without wealth cannot afford.

3) Build your team
It’s important to understand your assets and create a team of professionals to protect your wealth.

Insurance is imperative to your generational wealth. Property, life and disability insurance can shield your assets and avoid having your family inherit a financial burden should the unexpected and unfortunate happen. Who better to advise you than an insurance expert?

Other essential financial experts to consider for your team include a financial advisor, accountant, attorney, tax expert and estate planning attorney.

The bottom line

Offering your family a solid financial portfolio will maximize their options to live well and succeed.

The information provided here is not investment, tax or financial advice. For such advice, call 703-868-5676 or visit lizluke.com.
The items described below will be heard by the Planning Commission and the City Council on the dates and times listed below. NOTICE: Some of the items listed below may be placed on a Consent Calendar. A consent item will be approved at the beginning of the meeting without discussion unless someone asks that it be taken off the Consent Calendar and considered separately. The Planning Commission reserves the right to recess and continue the Public Hearing to a future date. For further information, call the Department of Planning & Zoning at 703.746.4666 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/dockets.

ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022
7:00 PM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022
9:30 AM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

The October 6, 2022 Alexandria Planning Commission Public Hearing and the October 15, 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 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.

Registration Link:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FpZTPlCRWu10xqR1yRwGxw

Zoom Audio Conference:
Dial: 301-715-8592
Webinar ID: 956 388 8625
Password: 614197

City Council (Public Hearing Webinar): Registration Link:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FpZTPlCRWu10xqR1yRwGxw

Zoom Audio Conference:
Dial: 301-715-8592
Webinar ID: 956 388 8625
Password: 614197

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 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 703.746.4550 (TTY/TDD 838-5056). We request that you provide a 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made.

Special Use Permit #2022-00018
1605 and 1611 Mount Vernon Avenue
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit to allow for the continued use of a non-conforming vehicle parking and storage lot associated with an automobile sales and service use until December 31, 2045 (amending SUP #2010-00052); zoned: CL/Commercial Low.
Applicant: Alexandria Hyundai, LLC, represented by M. Catharine Puskas, attorney/agent.

Special Use Permit #2022-00063
1707, 1709 and 1711 Mount Vernon Avenue
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit for the expansion of a non-complying automobile sales and service use (amending SUP #2006-0019); zoned: CL/Commercial Low.
Applicant: Alexandria Hyundai, LLC, represented by M. Catharine Puskas, attorney/agent.

Special Use Permit #2022-00064
1801 Mount Vernon Avenue
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit for the expansion of a non-complying automobile sales and service use (amending SUP #2006-0021); zoned: CL/Commercial Low.
Applicant: Alexandria Hyundai, LLC, represented by M. Catharine Puskas, attorney/agent.

Special Use Permit #2022-00058
3103 Park Center, Unit 1600
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit for a congruent housing facility use; zoned: CRMU-H/Commercial Residential Mixed Use-High.
Applicant: Sheltered Homes of Alexandria, represented by Mary Catherine Gibbs, attorney/agent.

Special Use Permit #2022-00061
516 Orono Street
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit for the expansion of a health profession office and change in use from a non-complying personal service establishment to a health profession office.
Applicant: Stella Kim, Special Use Permit #2022-00042
4646 Seminary Road - Francis C Hammond Middle School Athletic Field Lights
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit to allow the installation of lighting for congregational recreational facilities at Francis C Hammond Middle School; zoned: R-8/Single-family zone.
Applicant: City of Alexandria, Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

Special Use Permit #2022-00045
4643 Taney Avenue - Patrick Henry Elementary School and Recreation Center Athletic Field Lights
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit to allow the installation of lighting for congregational recreational facilities at Patrick Henry Elementary School; zoned: R-12/ Single-family zone.
Applicant: City of Alexandria, Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

Special Use Permit #2022-00046
600 E Monroe Avenue - Eugene Simpson Stadium Park Athletic Field Lights
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit to allow the installation of lighting for congregational recreational facilities at Simpson Stadium Park; zoned: POS/Public open space and community recreation zone.
Applicant: City of Alexandria, Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

Discussion Item - Changes to the Transportation Management Program (TMP), Staff: City of Alexandria, Department of Transportation & Environmental Services

Special Use Permit #2022-00028
1940 Duke Street - Carlyle Block C Rooftop Amendment
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit to increase the gross square footage allowable for Carlyle Block C within the allowed maximum for the Carlyle District and to amend the Design Guide-
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, October 5, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, room 2400, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 on the following applications:

BAR #2022-00396 OHAD Request for alterations at 712 Wilkes Street. Applicant: John Pontecorvo
BAR #2022-00416 OHAD Request for demolition/encapsulation at 712 Wilkes Street. Applicant: John Pontecorvo

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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Kimberly.cadena@alexandriava.gov or to the Office of Housing, 421 King St, Ste. 215, Alexandria, VA, 22314. All comments received by 5 pm on September 30, 2022 will be considered by the City of Alexandria prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Alexandria certifies to HUD that James F. Parajon in his capacity as City Manager consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD’s approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Alexandria to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Alexandria’s certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Alexandria; (b) the City of Alexandria has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD, 820 First Street, N.E., Suite 450, Washington, DC 20002-4255, Attention: Mr. Michael D. Rose, Director, Community Planning and Development Division. Potential objects should contact HUD at (202) 775-6266, to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

James F. Parajon, City Manager

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

September 22, 2022

Public comments will be received at the Public Hearing. The public may submit comments in advance to Alicia Chase at Alicia.chase@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.

BZA #2022-00018
306 West Masonic View Avenue
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Exception to construct a dormer in the required side yard; zoned: R-5/Residential Single-Family zone
Applicant: Robert Guynn

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T Mobility, Inc is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility on an existing building located at 105 North Union Street, Alexandria, Virginia County, VA 23314. The modifications will consist of the removal of 6 existing antennas (2 per sector) to be replaced with 6 new antennas (2 per sector) and 3 new stacked antennas (1 per sector) at an approximate height of 49ft above ground level (measured to the top of the antennas) on the 42ft tall building, measured to top of rooftop (overall height of 49ft including all appurtenances). Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 6122000913 - KRC EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or at (815) 302-9118.

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703-929-1302 / 202-438-1489
As a resident of Alexandria since 1989, I love living, working and giving back to the community I call home. Thanks to the generous support of my friends, neighbors, clients and other like-minded Alexandrians we have made a huge difference for a number of organizations so far in 2022:

K9 Yappy Hour Hosted By The Alexandria Police Foundation | Food Drive for ALIVE!
Shop & Support The Board of Lady Managers | The Twig Clothing and Housewares Drive

“Thank you for all you do for Twig! Your Donation Day was a smashing success! You have some well dressed friends who generously donated from their closets!” - Phyllis Sciacca, Thrift Shop Co-Chair

“Thank you for your commitment to ALIVE! and the people we serve. The donations from the Old Town Village Food Drive will feed 512 Alexandrians in need.” - Jenn Ayers, Executive Director

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