City Council holds legislative meeting

Docket includes speed safety cameras, backyard privy digs
BY KASSIDY MCDONALD

City Council held a legislative meeting on Tuesday evening to present a number of awards and proclamations, discuss the concept of using photo speed monitoring devices and address the dangers of backyard privy digging in Old Town.

Some of the proclamations of the night included recognizing the Chinquapin Wahoos Swim Team for their outstanding season, the winners of the 2022 Ben Brennan Awards and honoring Crossing Guard Cora Reed, who has served Alexandria City Public Schools for more than 50 years. Other proclamations included recognizing World Polio Day 2022 as well as recognizing October as National Bullying Awareness Month.

One item up for consideration was the use of photo speed monitoring devices in both highway work zones and school crossing zones. This topic has been discussed previously in council meetings, as it is statistically shown that as vehicle speed increases, the chance of pedestrian death increases. According to the item’s presentation with statistics from the U.S. Department of Transportation, a pedestrian has a 10% chance of death if hit by a vehicle moving 23 mph, a 25% chance of

Longtime car dealership receives permits to stay in business

Planning Commission conditionally approves Alexandria Hyundai SUPs
BY KASSIDY MCDONALD

The Alexandria Planning Commission conditionally approved special use permit requests submitted by Alexandria Hyundai that will keep the longtime car dealership in business.

Kevin Reilly, who has been the owner of the Alexandria Hyundai dealership on Mount Vernon Ave, for more than 20 years, filed three different SUPs – two of which the commission approved with conditions and one they did not.

Reilly told the commission that in order to stay in business, he needs to keep up with industry changes and convert to electric vehicles.

“Hyundai has a global design initiative program, and as a dealer if I do not comply, the financial penalties basically make it not viable for me to continue,” Reilly said.

Ann Horowitz, principal urban planner of Alexandria, gave an overview presentation of the three different SUP requests proposed by Alexandria Hyundai. She first went over the context of the three sites that are adjacent to each other and are collectively located on two acres of land. These sites are found in the Commercial low and Mount Vernon Ave-

Schools
Learn about the latest news in city schools.
Page 8

Women
Virginia Hall was a pioneering agent for the Special Operations Executive.
Page 27

City Creatives
Learn about how Alexandria artists are making waves, from painting to acting to creating music.
Page 11

Alexandria Hyundai has occupied Mount Vernon Avenue for more than 20 years.
Don’t Let this Market Spook You!

Buying or selling a home may seem scary but not when you have the right agent by your side! Reach out to one of our Alexandria experts for a consultation on how to best approach this ever-changing market.

- 320 S West Street #308, Alexandria, VA 22314
  2 BD | 2 BA | $789,900
  Listed by The Goodhart Group

- 2510 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22301
  6 BD | 4.5 BA | $2,295,000
  Listed by Homes of Alexandria Team

- 1503 Wake Forest Dr, Alexandria, VA 22307
  3 BD | 2 BA | $875,000
  Listed by Pia Taylor

- 603 Russell Rd, Alexandria, VA 22301
  5 BD | 3 BA | $1,225,000
  Buyer Represented by The Rivkin Group

Have a safe and fun Halloween!

Compass is a licensed real estate brokerage that abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is not guaranteed. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Compass is licensed as Compass Real Estate in DC and as Compass in Virginia and Maryland. 1006 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.277.2152
Local journalist releases new history book


The book explores how The Byrd Machine, a state political machine headed by former Sen. Harry Byrd, influenced Virginia politics for more than half a century.

According to a news release, the organization “[wielded] power and influence over everything from who got the nod to be governor to how the state maintained racial segregation.”

In the history book, Pope investigates the rise and fall of the Virginia political machine, which he writes “operated with a pathological hatred of debt spending, crushing the power of labor unions and forcing its will on Black schoolchildren protesting separate and unequal facilities.”

Pope is an Old Town resident who has reported for NPR, the New York Daily News and Northern Virginia magazine. A book launch will take place at the Athenaeum at 201 Prince Street, at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 20.

City hires chief human resources officer

The City of Alexandria announced yesterday that Janet Manuel will serve as the city’s chief human resources officer, according to a news release.

Manuel served as the director of the department of human resource and civil services and diversity and inclusion officer for the City of Pittsburgh, during which she worked to create an environment focused on hiring diverse candidates and implementing policies that elevated the focus of equity and inclusion.

Additionally, Manuel served in several roles – from vice president to manager of human resources – at Fortune 500 companies and a nonprofit organization.

She earned a bachelors’ degree in business from Cameron University and a master’s of science degree in organizational studies from Robert Morris University.

Manuel will begin her position on Oct. 31.

-Courtesy photograph
SCAN Northern Virginia to hold gala

Stop Child Abuse Now, a region-wide organization focused on preventing child abuse and neglect, will hold its annual gala on Oct. 28.

The event is called Toast to Hope, and aims to unite individuals to stand up for abused, neglected and high-risk youth. The event will include more than 300 of NOVA's champions for children to honor those who are survivors and thank donors.

The night will also feature emcee Drew Murray, an illusionist who will help create “the magic of childhood again.”

SCAN is the only region-wide organization focused on preventing child abuse and neglect across Northern Virginia. The organization asks all Toast to Hope guests to wear blue to show their support for survivors and prevention.

The event will begin at 7 p.m. at the Army Navy Country Club, located at 1700 Army Navy Drive. For more information, visit scanva.org.

-awilson@alextimes.com

Traditional Irish music comes to the Lyceum

The Lyceum plans to host a night of traditional Irish music and dance on Friday.

The event will feature Ireland prize-winning musicians Cara Wildman and Lexie Boatright and local musician Matt Mulqueen. Wildman and Boatright will play the harp, concertina, fiddle and bodhran while Mulqueen will accompany on piano.

Wildman is a percussionist, pianist, dancer and bodhran player who has performed in a variety of musical ensembles across the world including Puerto Rico, Argentina, Mexico, Ireland, Canada and the U.S.

Boatright is a multi-instrumentalist, performer and teacher known for her work on harp and concertina. She is the artistic director of the Baltimore-Washington Academy of Irish Culture, a nonprofit she co-founded that educates children on traditional Irish music, language, dance and history.

Mulqueen was born in Baltimore, Md. and began playing piano at age 9. After taking group piano lessons, he progressed to private lessons in Irish and classical music.

The show will begin at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, visit https://ticketstripe.com/IrishMusic.

-oanderson@alextimes.com

In loving memory

Ethel V. Nelson

Ethel V. Nelson
Aug. 16, 1954 – Oct. 12, 2018

Always loved
Never forgotten
Forever missed in our hearts

Your loving husband, Charles H. Nelson, Sr., Still DO
Your daughter, Gail O. Nelson
Your granddaughters, Shaye, Toyri and Nakiia
And your great grandchildren

Visit alextimes.com to access our print archives to read older editions!
Join Us for Paws in the Park!

When: Sunday, October 16th  
Time: 11am–4pm  
Where: Oronoco Bay Park  
Why: To Benefit the homeless pets at the ALEXANDRIA ANIMAL SHELTER

Bring your pups and enjoy food, a beer garden, live music, local businesses and artisans, and dozens of adoptable animals! Join us at the Family Fun Tent for professional photos of your pet from 12-2pm!

Proud Sponsor: Alexandria Brokerage | 400 S Washington Street, Alexandria, VA

Diann Hicks Carlson  
+1 703 628 2440  
dcarlson@ttrsir.com
The Hyundai accessory parking lot, the southernmost of the three sites, is of non-conforming use, according to Horowitz.

“Hyundai auto sales repair center and accessory parking lot do not conform with the goals of the Potomac West Small Area Plan, which covers this location,” Horowitz said. “The plan states that the goal for this section of the avenue is to prioritize the pedestrian over the automobile, and the redevelopment of automobile oriented uses such as gas stations, services uses and automobile dealerships ... that is to ensure a pedestrian friendly environment.”

The first of the three SUP requests to extend the use of the accessory parking lot at 1605-1611 Mount Vernon Ave from 2025, when it expires, to 2045. The second SUP for Hyundai sales and service requests to physically expand the number of operational hours and to allow off site parking. The third for Genesis sales and service, which is the luxury Hyundai line, is to physically expand and extend business hours.

With the proposed extension of the parking lot, Hyundai would install seven electric vehicle chargers, four of which would be accessible to the public 24 hours a day, a service reception area with a canopy and another service reception area for Genesis.

City staff then recommended denial, as the requests “do not conform with the master plan” of Alexandria.

“The expansions and extensions would foster a longer term automobile use along a substantial length of the avenue, and this would continue to prioritize cars over pedestrians and physically and aesthetically interrupt the neighborhood ...” Horowitz said.

Staff then recommended conditions for approval which included “improving the visual quality of the streetscape such as adding trees and adding a wall for visual interest, reducing spill-over lighting and glare and reviewing at public hearings in 10 years before Dec. 31, 2032 for neighborhood compatibility and re-development potential.” Staff presented conceptual drawings of mixed-uses for the site including a building that had townhomes with a car dealership on the ground floor.

Cathay Puskar, who represents Reilly as a land use attorney, disagreed with staff’s recommendations and noted that the height restrictions in Del Ray would prohibit residential development above an automobile dealership.

“You cannot fit a dealership and have an economically viable use with a dealership and residential units above when you only have 40 feet to work with,” Pulsar said. “For them to show the figure that they showed of a dealership in Bethesda and how successful that was as a mixed-use building, that building is 60 feet tall.”

All three special use permit requests will now go to City Council for review.

-kmcdonald@alextimes.com
death if hit at 32 mph and a 50% chance of death if hit at 42 mph.

Both Vision Zero Action Plan, which has the goal of eliminating all traffic deaths and serious injuries by 2028, and the Alexandria Mobility Plan, which ensures transportation meets the needs of residents and keeps up with changing technology, have both recommended speed cameras in the past to monitor speed safety and keep the city’s roads safer for school children and pedestrians alike.

Councilor Kirk McPike acknowledged that this was a big conversation in one of last month’s City Council meetings. He said that one of the main causes of danger on our roads in Alexandria today is vehicles speeding.

“This is a significant challenge that we face in terms of road safety — and we got some leeway in terms of installing these sorts of cameras from the general assembly this year — and I’m very excited that we are moving as quickly as we possibly can on this,” McPike said. “I hope this is successful and we are able to go and get authority to do more of this in the future.”

The push for speed safety cameras in school zones isn’t just happening in Alexandria, it is happening across the country.

“Speed safety cameras are an effective and reliable technology to supplement more traditional methods of enforcement, engineering measures, and education to alter the social norms of speeding,” according to the U.S Department of Transportation.

On May 4, council adopted a Fiscal Year 2023 Budget, which includes funding resources for speed monitoring cameras in school zones throughout the city, according to the presentation.

McPike motioned to approve the proposed ordinance to authorize the use of speed cameras in school zones and work zones in the city, and that it is scheduled for a second reading and final passage on Saturday at the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilor John Chapman. It passed unanimously.

Mayor Justin Wilson then gave his oral report towards the end of the legislative meeting. He provided an update to council about how the Alexandria Archaeological Commission has reached out to council asking for help promoting awareness of the dangers of privy digging in Old Town. The AAC has made known that they are a resource for residents in Old Town, and that backyard archeology is not encouraged — or safe.

“If you are approached by a person asking to dig your yard who is not a City of Alexandria archaeologist, please call us at 703-746-4399. There are safety concerns about this kind of activity. Additionally, every time a well or privy is dug just to find and keep the bottles, we lose an important page in Alexandria’s history book,” the city’s backyard archeology page reads.

Wilson said the AAC has sent council a note asking them “to draw more attention to efforts that staff has already attempted to spread awareness.” Before doing any digging, the AAC wants Old Town residents to know to consult a professional.

“As a city that very much values professional archeology and what we might discover and interpret and protect from archeological digs, I know the commission is very very concerned about the potential impacts of this kind of backyard archaeology that can occur without any coordination,” Wilson said.

Eleanor Breen, the city’s archeologist, then talked about some of the city’s efforts and how awareness should be spread moving forward.

Breen said that for years there have been non-professional bottle diggers that have targeted historic homes and sites in Old Town and in other locations to dig up privies, or old outhouses, on these properties. These properties are a huge area of focus for archeological research and preservation for the AAC.

“We’ve turned to in-person outreach at farmers markets, talking to over 100 people about the issue and informing them of what they can do, which really we would encourage homeowners to call Alexandria Archaeology. We are a city resource and we’re there to talk about the history of your property and help you preserve it in the best way possible,” Dr. Breen said. “That doesn’t mean for us to come in and dig it immediately, it just means for us to document what you have and work with you to preserve what’s in your backyard.”

All docents within the Alexandria Archeology Museum are trained to talk about the issue of backyard archeology, answer questions and address the dangers of attempting to dig in your backyard. By visiting the new backyard archeology page, residents can learn about the step-by-step process to report a sinkhole, privy or historic well on their property.

Dr. Breen also mentioned that beginning this month, there will be a 311 number that acts as an “easy way” for residents to work with the city to report sinkholes on their property, or get in contact with city archeologists who know the process best.

McPike then asked if Alexandria would be the first city in America to have a 311 call option to identify a historic sinkhole, in which Dr. Breen answered that Alexandria would be the first and only city so far to have this resource for property owners. Although this doesn’t mean backyard archeology is just an Old Town issue, or even just an Alexandria issue. It is proving to be a bigger issue that the state of Virginia is working to address.

“Even beyond Alexandria, this issue has gotten the attention of our state archeologist of Virginia in Richmond and the Director of the Department of Historic Resources,” Breen said. “They are working on compiling a statement about the value of archeology and the detrimental effect that this kind of non-professional digging can have particularly on such a historically significant city like ours.”

-kmcdonald@alextimes.com
Immanuel Lutheran welcomes Virginia attorney general

The Immanuel Lutheran School community celebrated the school’s second annual Constitution Day Observance with programs on Sept. 16, and by hosting Virginia’s Attorney General Jason Miyares on Sept. 20.

The attorney general spoke with ILS Upper School students and parents, sharing with them his own experience as the first Cuban-American elected to statewide office in Virginia. Calling the United States a land of “second chances,” Miyares communicated how fundamental the Constitution is to providing those opportunities and protections. He also took questions and explained how his work directly relates to the Constitution.

As a part of Immanuel’s Constitution Day celebration, parents participated in class activities in all grades, Jr. kindergarten through eighth grade. Students enjoyed guest readers sharing books about the Constitution, learning through a variety of crafts and games including Constitution Bingo, dressing up as judges, hearing about work related to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and engaging with parent visitors as they shared experiences and knowledge.

“We are delighted that our Constitution Day celebration has already become a favorite Immanuel tradition, and we were thrilled to expand our program this year by having the honor of hosting Virginia’s Attorney General, Jason Miyares, as part of that observation,” ILS Headmaster Julia Habrecht said. “Our goal at Immanuel extends beyond simply imparting knowledge. Along with our families, we seek to nurture young men and young women who are wise and virtuous. Studying and learning history, celebrating our heritage as Americans, and equipping students to understand and defend our Constitution are all critical parts of that effort.”

Mayor Justin Wilson swears in ACDS student council

Alexandria Country Day School celebrated the start of the new school year by swearing in its student council members on Sept. 14. Mayor Justin Wilson joined Head of School Scott Baytosh to perform the swearing in ceremony and shared a few remarks with the student body.

Alexandria’s mayor has been participating in this ceremony for most of ACDS’ 39-year history.

ACPS prioritizes social-emotional learning

Throughout the school year, all Alexandria City Public Schools students will receive additional instruction in social, emotional and academic learning.

The 30 minutes of SEAL time each day helps ACPS students with relationship skills, responsible decision making, self-awareness, self-management and social awareness.

While the curriculum materials are developed by the division, each school can make modifications to support the unique needs of their school community.

“BE WHO YOU ARE
and be that well.”
-St. Francis de Sales

An all-girls Catholic high school in Washington, DC
www.visi.org 202.337.3350

Georgetown Visitation PREPARATORY SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE
October 15 from 1-4 p.m.
Register at www.visi.org/openhouseRSVP

Get to Know Grace
Private Tours Available
Veterans Day Open House
Friday, November 11 at 10 a.m.

Grace Episcopal School
Coed Independent School | Preschool Ages 3 - Grade 5 GraceSchoolAlex.org 703-549-5067 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22305

Bike Warehouse
BIG SALE
“As-is” bikes, bike parts, trunk mounted bike racks & more
9 am to 1 pm Oct. 15, 2022
Hundreds of bikes for all ages from $40 and up

VELOcity
Bicycle co-op

1502 Mt. Vernon Avenue
Behind Al’s Steaks
velocitycoop.org
Speech pathologist reads to St. Paul’s preschoolers

Mary Calvert, a pediatric speech pathologist, recently read “Bailey Speaks!” her newly published book, to a class of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church preschoolers.

Calvert and illustrator Sharon Lockwood created “Bailey Speaks!” to help families, educators and ESL learners enhance expressive language in young children. Calvert and Lockwood are pediatric speech pathologists with more than 100 years of combined experience helping children and their families communicate.

The new book series helps kids, parents and teachers understand speech and language development by entertaining children as they learn to speak while educating adults through an engaging story of a boy teaching his dog how to talk. Calvert combines a rhyming, read-along story for children with language development tips for the adult reader.

Browne students study geography

In a joint English and history class, Browne Academy fifth graders used the literary device of symbolism to represent how geography influences a society’s culture or shared characteristics. The students recently read the book “Wolf Brother.”

In class the students were divided into groups and, while using the book’s details and map for reference, determined the attributes of their group’s clan and then designed a custom banner for their clan. This was the first part of a series of interdisciplinary projects that will happen between English and history during the fifth graders’ study of the Stone Age.

School Profile

Grace Episcopal

Grace Episcopal School is a coed independent school in Alexandria for preschool students ages three through Grade 5. A small school by design, Grace is led by a warm, tight-knit community and emphasizes both academic and social-emotional learning for all of its students.

Focusing on the foundational years of a child’s life, Grace’s small class sizes and differentiated approaches to learning enable the faculty and staff to develop the individual potential of each child in a loving, nurturing environment where values of kindness and inclusion are stressed. Supported by dedicated and experienced teachers, Grace students are happy, engaged learners, eager to explore the world around them and confident in their abilities to do so. Under Grace Episcopal School’s care, the children become independent thinkers, successful problem solvers and confident leaders.

The early childhood program features child-centered, hands-on activities, focusing on students’ needs through a developmentally designed and implemented program. As the students move into grade one and beyond, teachers stress individual attention in the academically challenging curriculum. Grace students develop strong skills in language arts, mathematics, science and social studies, and they create a solid foundation for lifelong learning.

Students’ understanding of the world is broadened through working with the visual arts, music, computer and technology, religion and Spanish language instruction. The school’s unique focus on the primary years of learning and character growth enables its students to leave fully prepared for the challenges of middle school and beyond.

Open Houses: Friday, Nov. 11 at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. Visit GraceSchoolAlex.org to register. Private tours are available on weekday mornings with Director of Admissions Julia Byrnes. Visit GraceSchoolAlex.org for contact information.

This is advertorial content.
Fusion Academy hosts open mic event

Fusion Academy Alexandria held its inaugural open mic event last week, which aims to showcase the varied creative accomplishments of Fusion’s community. Hosted by two teachers, the event involved faculty and students across all grade levels. It started with a duet by upperclassmen, followed by the reading of an original poem. Students shared work from their classes and hobbies, while teachers acted as emcees.

The aim of the program is to showcase the array of talent and passions at the school, encouraging both students and teachers to share their creations with the community. The event will recur monthly, with staff hoping to see the engagement continue to grow.

Commonwealth Academy girls’ volleyball ongoing winning streak

On Oct. 3, the Commonwealth Academy girls’ volleyball team claimed victory over The Lab School with a final score of 3-1. Returning varsity players, Campbell C. ’27 and Anastasia T. ’25 came out strong and carried the game with consecutive aces stemming from powerful, overhand serves. The CA team was able to keep momentum throughout the game despite dropping a set to the Dragons. The team had a quick turnaround with the British International School of Washington on Oct. 4, at the Susan J. Johnson home gymnasium.

The CA team continued its winning streak by sweeping the British School, 3-0. An exciting match all around, that performance against the British School highlighted the continued growth of CA’s players and their commitment to building the program. Big contributors to the game were Kai G.A. ’26; Jenn G. ’24; Mari Y. ’25; Campbell C. ’27, Anastasia T. ’25, Celeste R. ’25 and Mazie R. ’27. CA’s overall record is 5-3 with its ISAAC league play record being 2-5.
Four finalists compete for the title of the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic's next music director.

Read the full story on page 13.
FALL OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND
OCT 15 - 16
VISIT US AT
3608 Orlando Place  1401 Portner Road
300 Mount Vernon Avenue
THE LIZ LUKE TEAM
of Long & Foster Real Estate
The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic has an exciting 2022-2023 concert season ahead — but with a special twist, as the organization is in the final stages of finding its next music director.

The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association, originally called the Mount Vernon Orchestra Association until 2004, is a 65-person symphony orchestra that performs 10 concerts annually in Alexandria. This year’s concert season marks the 51st anniversary of the WMPA.

The Mount Vernon Orchestra Association was founded by bassist H. Stevens Brewster in 1972, according to the WMPA website. After Brewster’s death in 1984, Ulysses James became the conductor and music director of both the WMP and the Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra.

James was not a trained conductor when he took over the WMP. He was, however, a talented musician and had a focus in the Navy on organizational development, which he said helped lead him to becoming conductor. At the time, his daughter was a violinist in the Mount Vernon Junior Chamber Orchestra, which led him to buy a trombone and cello. He watched the Mount Vernon Chamber orchestra disassemble due to organizational problems and decided he knew enough about conducting and music to try and help bring it back together.

James has continued his dedication to the organization since 1984, as he is still currently the artistic director of WMPA and Conductor of the WMP. James will retire in May 2023 in what will be the last concert of the season.

During his tenure, James said he’s been most impacted “The things that stand out most are the way in which very fine composers and musicians have enjoyed working with me and the orchestra, and they will return and do more,” James said.

In terms of his retirement, James says it is something that becomes very hard to let go of because he’s done it for so long. He is hopeful and optimistic about the future of the organization in his absence because of how great all four finalists are.

“My hope is that [the WMPHA] continues to fill the space in which the orchestra members are a combination of high level amateurs and professionals, because that way of doing things makes great contributions to the community,” James said. “There is always a push to become professional — which isn’t always the best way to go — and it is really important for us to fill the space we’re in and get better.”

The final concert of the season will be held on May 20, 2023 at 3 p.m. James will take the stage with the WMP for the last time to celebrate his career and long tenure of the orchestra.

The process

The hunt for a new music director is currently underway. The search began in March, and has been whittled down from more than 50 applicants to four finalists. Caroline Mousset, the executive and artistic planning director of the WMPA, said there are five members on the search committee, including two members of the Philharmonic. She has been working with the guest conductors to plan this year’s season and has been chairing the search committee.

“It is a really exciting time because anything is possible. We really are following — by the book — the guidelines set forth by the League of American Orchestras for our music director search,” Mousset said.

The search committee gave each applicant rankings based on the following categories: education and training; conducting experience; music director or comparable leadership/administrative experience; and special or unique gifts/appeal/skills. Based on this criteria, they then created a spreadsheet and cut the applicant pool in half. The 25 remaining candidates were interviewed.

From there, the search committee narrowed the list down to eight candidates. Mousset explained they then had a meeting to decide the four final candidates that was taken to the WMPA Board of Directors.

“The WMP’s 2022/2023 Season honors the legacy of Artistic Director Emeritus Ulysses James in presenting great works with a particular focus on championing underrepresented and American composers. After experiencing the artistry of all four music director finalists in concert throughout the season, both audiences and orchestra members will be able to share their thoughts through surveys, which will be impactful in determining the Philharmonic’s next music director,” Mousset said in a news release.

For the 2022-2023 season, each of the four music director finalists will have five rehearsals and one concert per-
formance. They will be evaluated not only by the Board, but also by the orchestra and the audience members as well. According to Mousset, each member of the orchestra will receive a survey evaluating each final-ist during rehearsal and their concert performance, and the audience will receive a survey evaluating the concert they attend.

“The Search Committee will review the results of these surveys, and meet after the fourth guest conductor concert on March 26 to determine who we will recommend to the Board as the new music director,” Mousset said.

Erin Freeman
Erin Freeman, the first guest conductor, will hold a concert on Sunday. Freeman got her start in music by attending the symphony in Atlanta with her mother and attending productions like Annie with her grandmother. She currently lives in Richmond, but is moving to Alexandria within the near future. Freeman is artistic director of The City Choir of Washington, artistic director of Wintergreen Music, resident conductor of the Richmond Ballet and recently concluded successful tenures as director of the award-winning Richmond Symphony Chorus, according to her WMPA bio.

A close friend suggested that Freeman audition with the Philharmonic to become the next music director. She auditioned and now finds herself in the final four.

“I didn’t think of it as an audition,” Freeman said. “I thought of it as an opportunity to make music with people.”

Her concert is inspired by the word “philharmonic,” which means love or devotion to music. Her program is about the power of love and music, and even features a sibling duo violinist and cellist playing a piece together.

Anna Binneweg
Anna Binneweg will be the next conductor to hold a concert. She got her start in music through earning her university doctorate at Northwestern University in conducting. While there, she attended a study abroad program in London that greatly inspired her to pursue conducting at a professional level.

“I always wanted to be in some kind of leadership role that was centered around teaching. And of course, by nature of conducting, we are teachers,” Binneweg said.

Binneweg has been the music director/conductor of the Londontowne Symphony Orchestra, the AACC Symphony Orchestra at Anne Arundel Community College and a frequent guest conductor on the national and international scene, according to her bio on the Philharmonic’s website. She heard about the music director opening through colleagues and other musicians in the area of her hometown of Annapolis.

“Especially for semi-professional and community orchestras, I think it is really important that the orchestra has a say because they’re all there for the absolute love of it and commitment to their community, so I think that is a very wise component of the audition,” Binneweg said.

Binneweg’s concert will feature work by living composer Micheal Stephen Brown, who was inspired by Beethoven. The overarching theme of her concert on Dec. 11 will be honoring traditions of the past in addition to featuring new music.

Glen Cortese
The next guest conductor and finalista to hit the stage will be Glen Cortese, who got his start in music in
As a creative person, I am lucky that my career in real estate has provided the opportunity to combine my passion for art with the marketing of my listings.

Thank you to Beverly Ryan, Marsha Staiger and Charlene Nield for allowing me to hang your fabulous work in my Art & Architecture events, and attending the opening receptions as my celebrity guests.

---

**AS A SUPPORTER OF THE ALEXANDRIA ART SCENE,**

I am thrilled to feature the works of these amazing local artists in my own home:

- Marsha Staiger • Beverly Ryan • Laura Edwards • Sheep Jones • Tory Cowles • Ann Barbieri
- Susan Finsen • Jennifer Bernhard Hatfield • Carlos Beltran • Ramon Camarillo • Paula Wachsstock
- Kathleen Gallery • Craig Sterling • Fran Livaditis • Nancy Ramsey • Geri Gordon • Helen Sampson
- Jennifer Duncan • Barbara Southworth • Sharon Frey • Karen Eide • Katie Burgess

Lisa Groover

REALTOR® | $15+ MILLION IN 2021 | NVAR Platinum Top Producer | Licensed in VA
Phone 703.919.4426 | LGroover@McEneaney.com | LisaGroover.com

109 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.549.9292 | Equal Housing Opportunity
Consider our event space for your next bridal celebration and shop with us for exclusive wines and thoughtful wedding gifts.

**ALEXANDRIA TIMES**

- The Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra and was named music director emeritus of the Oregon Mozart Players after serving as artistic director for nine seasons, according to his Philharmonic bio.

  He heard about the Philharmonic through job boards and postings and was immediately attracted to the organization.

  “Smaller institutions are more flexible in terms of how many concerts they choose to do, the size of the orchestras they can hire ... so they’re more flexible in maintaining the programming and product without being tied to a very stringent contractual obligation,” Cortese said. “I’m a big proponent of keeping these smaller cultural institutions healthy and helping them grow both artistically and financially.”

  His February concert will explore many different periods – from the romantic era to a piece written in the 1990s, for a unique range of style and musical periods. Not only is the period of time of the pieces different, but pieces from a German, Russian, French and an American composer will be performed for a variety of cultural backgrounds as well.

**Michelle Di Russo**

The last to hold a concert will be Argentinian-Italian conductor Michelle Di Russo, who began dancing and taking voice lessons and fell in love with music by learning a range of instruments. She received a doctoral degree in orchestral conducting from Arizona State University and a master of music in orchestral conducting from the University of Kentucky. Di Russo is the interim director of orchestras at Cornell University and the new assistant conductor of North Carolina Symphony, according to her Philharmonic bio.

Di Russo moved to Washington, D.C. during the pandemic, and learned about the opening for the new music director through her agent.

“What really caught my attention was the diverse programming the orchestra champions, as well as American composers and due to my absolute love for collaborating with composers and premiering new music. I realized that I would really enjoy being able to carry on that mission and vision with this organization,” Di Russo said in a statement.

Her concert will focus mainly on American composers and on the voices in classical music today that are current and relevant.

During the pandemic, Di Russo co-created Girls Who Conduct. This organization has the mission of closing the gender gap in the conducting field. The organization empowers women-identifying and non-binary conductors by providing mentorship and training opportunities.

**The gender gap**

Using a database of 30 million profiles, Zippia estimated demographics and statistics for conductors in the United States: 13.1% of all conductors are women, while 86.9% are men.

Although there still continues to be a gender gap in conducting, with three out of four finalists for the WMP music director being women, the future looks bright.

All of the candidates were enthusiastic about the makeup of the field changing, and seemed hopeful for the future of the WMPA.

“[The majority women] shows a lot about the organization and the field in general, there are more conductors who are primed and ready for these positions who end up applying,” Freeman said.

“This is the first time I’ve been in search finals where all the other candidates have been women. It doesn’t surprise me that much because I think the field has opened more and there is really no reason why there shouldn’t be more female conductors, it has to do with your musicianship and not your gender,” Cortese said.

“I was so excited and thrilled once they released the four finalists, that 75% of us are female,” Binneweg said. “It think it speaks really highly of the organization and that they’re really committed to being in-sync with the times.”

“I believe representation is crucial to inspire younger generations to dream without limits, and this is a step in the right direction in continuing to expand what classical music looks like,” Di Russo said. “There is still work to be done, but it is encouraging to see how things are starting to change.”

-kmcdonald@alextimes.com
TUNE INTO “DUST”

Virginia Theological Seminary premieres play ahead of bicentenary

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

In commemoration of its upcoming 200th anniversary, the Virginia Theological Seminary will premiere “Dust,” a play detailing the institution’s complex history and serpentine path that led to where it is today. The first performance will take place tonight in the Chapel Garden.

The play is an effort to reconcile with VTS’ past, exploring how “faith, American history, blindness, hypocrisy, vocation and God come together in an incendiary mix,” according to VTS’ website.

Directed by Ryan Rilette, artistic director of the Round House Theatre, and written by Non Vaughan-O’Hagan, London’s West End stage playwright, “Dust” incorporates humor and poignance to produce the story of a centuries-spanning journey told by those who lived it.

“The complete story needs to be told – the good and the bad. Partial stories that make the successors in the present feed good cannot and will not do anymore,” Rev. Ian Markham, dean of VTS, said.

Several years ago, Markham commissioned Vaughan-O’Hagan to create the play after the two had a conversation about her latest work, “I, Dido.” The play was about the inception of the abolitionist movement in 18th century London and had been revived for the Bloomsbury Festival in London.

According to Vaughan-O’Hagan, the process was set into motion rather simply.

“I asked me how [he] would go about commissioning a play and I replied, ‘You just have to ask,’” she said.

From there, Vaughan-O’Hagan embarked on a time-consuming expedition in order to learn everything she could about VTS’ rich and layered history.

“‘Dust’ demanded a wealth of research – from a phrase in the Piscataway language to the exact time Jimi Hendrix played the Star Spangled Banner in Woodstock in 1969,” she recalled. “Trying to find a framework which allows the audience to travel in time and place was a particular challenge.”

Vaughan-O’Hagan landed on a structure that breaks the fourth wall, often acknowledging that actors are onstage creating a play. The first act jumps back 100 years ago, where the actors are at a rehearsal for the first 100-year celebration of the seminary’s existence.

At that point in the story, quite a bit of VTS’ history – such as the exclusion, racism and leaning on Black on-campus labor without compensation during slavery, Reconstruction and segregation under Jim Crow laws – is omitted from the narrative.

The second act follows the next 100 years of VTS, featuring contemporary actors trying to determine the best way to tell the institution’s full story. The result is a deconstructed, true display of grappling with history; it’s also part of the reason Rilette signed on in the first place.

Rilette, a self-described “lapsed Catholic,” grew up in the church with a father who was a deacon. Past experiences left a sour taste in his mouth and a lasting view that the Catholic church is often exclusionary.

He accepted an offer to direct “Dust” because of VTS’ exhibited commitment to repairing the damage it caused over the years. For instance, the seminary announced in 2019 the launch of a $1.7 million “repairs initiative,” in which it sought out descendants of enslaved Black people who labored at the seminary during the antebellum and Jim Crow eras for little to no money.

In February 2021, VTS began distributing $2,100 cash payments to the generation closest to the original workers. This past summer, more than 250 family members attended a private dinner at VTS to continue the conversation.
"I don’t normally take a lot of outside projects, but the fact that this is a seminary that … is really trying to find ways to truly create a fully inclusive church – to me, that is antithetical to my experience of the church," Rilette said. "… To find a place like this, that is so incredibly inclusive and so incredibly sensitive to the ways in which they have harmed in the past, just felt like a project that I wanted to be involved in in some way."

Rilette said the process of creating the play has been a large undertaking, specifically when it came to pinpointing a location. Initially, the plan was for "Dust" to take place in a small black box theater, but designers all agreed the space was too small.

Because one goal of the play was to bring the seminary’s architecture into the black box theater, Rilette and several designers toured VTS’ campus. They stumbled on the Old Chapel and immediately thought it would be a perfect location to host the play; not only was it “beautiful unto itself,” Rilette said, but the play also includes a section about the chapel burning down.

Although it was significantly more expensive to hold the play in the Chapel Garden, VTS enthusiastically agreed.

“I said, ‘Let me just warn you: It’s going to cost a lot more because you basically have to build the theater out here,’” Rilette said, “Well, you know, you only turn 200 once and we want to do this as well as we possibly can,” Rilette said.
The show was filmed last night and will be sent to other seminaries around the world as a way to demonstrate to other institutions how it’s possible to commemorate one’s past without celebrating it.

“What’s been driving our process throughout the entire thing is this idea that the play as a whole is trying to grapple with the seminary’s history as a way of cleaning the palate and looking forward to the future,” Rilette said.

For Vaughan-O’Hagan, the hope is that all audience members who view the play, whether that be priests, seminarians or community members, come away with a deeper understanding of American history through the prism of VTS.

“This play seeks to be funny, moving and thought-provoking. I hope the audience leaves with a sense that they have an understanding of the experience of others and an appreciation of [the] wonderful institution, the Virginia Theological Seminary, which they have on their doorstep,” Vaughan-O’Hagan said.

VTS has a narrative, and through “Dust” it aims to share the full scope of that narrative in hopes of living authentically and carving out a more equitable future. Markham called the process of telling VTS’ complex story “hard, technical, demanding work” that is best done with the pen of a playwright.

“The seminary must face both grace and sin – both its faithfulness and flaws,” Markham said. “Telling the complete story requires a play; this play does important work, and this play will be transformative for the seminary as we seek to live aware of our past so that the future can be different.”

“Dust” will be performed outdoors at 7 p.m. tonight through Sunday. For more information, visit https://vts.edu/dust/.

-oanderson@alextimes.com

Ryan Rilette, the director, and Non Vaughan-O’Hagan discuss “Dust,” which premieres tonight.

TORPEDO FACTORY ART CENTER

AMERICA’S LARGEST COMMUNITY OF OPEN ARTIST STUDIOS UNDER ONE ROOF
Free admission Since 1974 - Own art from the hands that made it

Ceramics, Collage & Mixed Media, Fiber, Glass, Enamel, Jeweler, Painting and Drawing, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture, and more.

27TH ANNUAL ART SAFARI
OCTOBER 22, 12–4 PM
Hands on activities for kids and families!

2022 FALL ART SALON
NOVEMBER 12 – DECEMBER 11
Up to 100 original artworks for sale by local artists, each less than $500.

2022 ART FEST
NOVEMBER 12 & 13, 12–4 PM
Shop, explore, and take in demos with a drink in hand.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY & ARTISTS SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 26 & 27, 10 AM–4 PM
The region’s best place to find unique, handmade gifts. Each artist is a small business, explore them all!

2022 HOLIDAY FESTIVAL
DECEMBER 3, 2–8 PM
Music fills the halls while you explore three floors of studios and galleries, plus visit Santa and Mrs. Claus.

OPEN DAILY: 10A.M. – 6 P.M.*
Open late on 2nd Fridays of the Month. Closed for New Year’s, Easter, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, & Christmas.
* Periodic 5 p.m. closure for private events. See dates at torpedofactory.org/todays-hours.

105 N. UNION ST. ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 • TORPEDOFACATORY.COM • @ TORPEDOFACTORY

Torpedo Factory Art Center is Managed by Alexandria’s Office of the Arts, a division of the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities.
In the hours that melt from late nights to early mornings, a set of hands reflect the world’s likeness in an array of paint. Paint splayed across wood panels harbors the familiarity of innocence and youth through a mother’s eyes.

The hands belong to Pro Tempore Torpedo Factory artist Jacelyn Orellana. Born in El Salvador in 1994, she grew up learning both Spanish and English. At age 6, Orellana moved to Los Angeles, Calif. and after several years she began losing some Spanish. When she returned to her rural village in the mountains of El Salvador at age 11, and without books to re-learn the language, she adapted through immersion and dictated her teacher’s lectures into her notebook at home.

Two years later she moved back to the U.S. where she graduated from Arroyo High School in San Lorenzo, Calif.

Orellana graduated from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco at age 22 in 2015. Not long after, she moved to Virginia pregnant with her son, Saya, with her partner, Kelyd.

Landscape painting was her first love, and she applies the strategies of her origin style when painting portraits. The darker areas like shadows and dark lines frame the subject, then move onto the brightest parts of the face and finally blend the midtones into the neutral glaze base.

Dean Larson, her landscape professor at the Academy of Art University, taught a traditional and rendered approach when creating art which influenced the strategies she used in the developmental years of her career.

After applying to an open call through the Torpedo Factory and completing a rigorous three phase application pro-
cess, she was accepted and granted a minimum one-year eligibility. As a fresh- men Pro Tem artist she has the opportunity to participate in Art Center public programs and exhibitions. While developing her skills and transposing her knowledge to portraiture, Orellana participated in painting challenges on social media, aiming to paint a portrait or landscape each day.

“I’ve always dreamt about being at this stage where art is my life,” Orellana said. “It took years, but now I appreciate it and just swim in it.”

The call to portraiture began as a need to financially support her family following her graduation from university. Her preference was always landscapes, she explained.

“In art school you are trying to make your painting look like your reference and on top of that you’re learning new skills and making sure it reads correctly,” Orellana said.

As a practiced traditionalist her style evolved from hyper-realistic landscapes with indiscernible brush strokes to “expressive, colorful and loose.”

Consistent commissions from clients and loved ones turned months into years and she began to fall in love with portraiture. Painting emotion in commissioned art requires a level of preservation and understanding, creative liberty is limited to avoid compromising the integrity of the reference and the expectations of the client.

Orellana was inspired by Salvador Dali, a Spanish surrealist artist. She reflected on seeing his work saying, with distance between the audience and the artwork the sequence of brush strokes and colors overlap and blend into a natural nuancescape.

After years of painting from reference photos she began feeling robotic, like a printer.

“Obviously you’re painting but just copying the references of others. It doesn’t feel creative anymore,” Orellana said.

Inspired by her recent love of film photography and painting, she started sourcing her own portrait and landscape references.

“I want to be involved with every step in the process. When I use someone else’s picture I feel like it is not completely my artwork, merely a copied image,” she said.

In 2019 she began a series of paintings starting with a colorful portrait of her son. Using acrylic paints
The art is supposed to be my perspective on life and how I see things,”

– Jacelyn Orellana

rather than oils opened the door to an expansive palette and the possibility to cultivate realistic abstraction.

During that period she painted something completely transformative thus far in her professional career in an attempt to “free [herself] from this box of realism and rendered art.”

Orellana has 11 paintings on display at Oxon Hill Library in Maryland. She reached out to the community library upon seeing an availability for an artist gallery this fall. Over the course of a few months she curated portraits and landscapes in oil, acrylic, and gouache. For smaller paintings like the ones hanging in the entrance of the library, her preference is wood panels for their smooth, firm surface rather than traditional canvas, which is more malleable and indents when pressed with a paintbrush. A majority of the paintings hanging in the library are from her own film photo references.

In April 2020 she gave birth to her daughter, Nomari. Orellana’s family acts as her muse and are the subjects of many of the gallery pieces and her proudest work.

“The art is supposed to be my perspective on life and how I see things,” she said. It is especially fitting given the pinnacle of the gallery is called “Through My Window” and features her son and daughter at their home blissfully unaware of their portraits being taken. The horizontal painting was a last minute entry to the collection at the library. Though, from the cohesiveness of the black borders around every painting to the tedious installation of, “Through My Window,” the relief in Orellana’s smile and admiration in her children’s eyes was apparent when the final piece was hung.

One of her most memorable portraits was by commission for a mother of her newborn baby that had passed away.

“The picture is of the baby being born, the baby passed away about a week after that picture was taken. I felt an [overwhelming] responsibility to make it amazing. A good, happy, warm piece for this mom because I am a mom of two and I couldn’t process what that would feel like and I wanted it to be beautiful,” she said.

When creating this portrait, instead of applying characteristics of realism, she used splashes of pinks, blues and warm tones to create an emotion-filled scene for the family to have.

Orellana believes portraits capture so much about the human condition and subconscious thoughts. Through painting an artist can create a unique reflection in a pair of eyes telling a story that transcends words. She emphasizes the intricacies we overlook in ourselves through conscious strokes of color.

“The feeling you get after you’ve worked for hours on something and you get to see the physical form of it is the best feeling,” she said.

-awilson@alextimes.com

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN PHILHARMONIC’S DYNAMIC 2022/2023 SEASON IS HERE!

FEATURING 4 MUSIC DIRECTOR FINALISTS GUEST CONDUCTING

CONCERTS HELD AT GW MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL

BRAHMS DOUBLE & A WORLD PREMIERE
Erin Freeman, conductor
Meredith Riley, violin / Britton Riley, cello
OCTOBER 16 @ 3 PM

BEETHOVEN INSPIRED
Anna Binneweg, conductor
Michael Stephen Brown, piano
DECEMBER 11 @ 3 PM

THE RED VIOLIN & FIREBIRD
Glen Cortese, conductor
Miranda Cuckson, violin
FEBRUARY 11 @ 3 PM

AMERICAN IN PARIS & WOMEN COMPOSERS
Michelle Di Russo, conductor
Nick Canellakis, cello
MARCH 26 @ 3 PM

CELEBRATING ULYSSES JAMES
Ulysses James, conductor
MAY 20 @ 3 PM

VIEW SEASON & GET TICKETS

SEASON FLEX PASS $100
18 & UNDER FREE
SINGLE TIX $25

MOTION PROJECT
• ADULT CLASSES
• YOUTH CLASSES
• AERIAL HAMMOCK

Learn more: www.localmotionproject.org
MAKING MUSIC ACCESSIBLE

Baffin Records helps local musicians with recording, distribution, song placement
BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

When one thinks of Alexandria, images of the town’s waterfront and quaint brick buildings might come to mind. Yet as with any city, there is also much more than meets the eye: A burgeoning arts scene has been simmering over the past several years, bustling with live music, open mic nights and even record labels.

Perhaps lesser known than some of the city’s larger attractions – but no less integral to the community – is Baffin Records, a label founded last year by two residents named Dave Klein and Matt Giles who wanted to elevate local musicians.

“I kind of have an idea of Baffin Records being the go-to [for artists]; if you have music and you’re making music and you’re doing something in Alexandria or the DMV region, Baffin Records could be a place where you could come and get advice, help producing, you may get hooked up with live venues or music publishing,” Klein said. “... It’s just about bringing opportunities to the talent that is already here, and being part of the community that way.”

Klein’s introduction to the city came seven years ago, when he was stationed at Andrews Air Force Base while serving in the military. Upon moving, he found himself in the middle of a community he greatly enjoyed and noticed that a surprisingly large number of regional artists were creating original music. So, he decided to put down roots.

After retiring from the military last year following 10 different moves and 21 years of service, Klein dove headfirst into what Klein terms his “passion project.” The venture was originally formed to add more visibility to the region’s music, particularly in Alexandria, and the slogan became “Your hometown record label.”

“Really, our focus, at least initially, was to make sure that artists in the region were getting noticed, and to really get a wider audience for the bands that we knew about. ... It’s [about] getting the DMV region’s upcoming [artists] a platform and a little bit of help and a little bit of opportunity that maybe they wouldn’t have had otherwise.”

Klein emphasized the importance of production quality when it comes to public consumption, noting that if music is not professionally mixed and mastered it runs a high likelihood of getting skipped.

“[We wanted] to find local artists who may have good songs, but they don’t necessarily have great recording equipment or they don’t have access to professional-level production. Our idea was that if we could bring the production level up to the level of where the talent is and the songwriting is, then those songs would be taken more seriously and could be released alongside every other commercial release that’s out there,” Klein said.

Klein was fueled by a desire to lift artists and equipped with a background in music production – the craft has always been his side project, even in the military – but the actual process of starting a business proved to be laborious. It required steps like starting an LLC, registering as a record label and being up to date with the International Standards of Recording Code in order to distribute music.

Fast forward one year, though, and Baffin Records is not
Our idea was that if we could bring the production level up to the level of where the talent is and the songwriting is, then those songs would be taken more seriously.

– Dave Klein

The first band Baffin signed is Hanoi Ragmen, an alternative rock six-piece inspired by M83, Bruce Springsteen and Queens of the Stone Age. With the label’s help, the band released their first eight-song album, “The Old Light,” in June.

Marian Hunter, another Baffin act, is a 17-year-old singer-songwriter who independently released a song called “Happy Fall” last year. Klein said the song gave him “goose-bumps” and subsequently asked Hunter if she’d be willing to bring some of her music to Baffin, to which she agreed. Hunter’s next single, “@80,” is set for release later this year.

Baffin’s final name on the roster belongs to Elizabeth Lane, a singer-songwriter who self-released an EP, “Summer Passed,” with lyrics that Klein described as mature and wise beyond her years. She then joined Baffin, collaborating on a song Klein had started called “Ghost Town,” which was released in July.

“Each of these artists were making really great music, so we approached each of those artists and said, ‘Hey, we’re starting this label and we think we can help with your musical journey,’ and they were excited too, just to have the opportunity to have some assistance and hopefully have a bigger platform and some help with promotion,” Klein said.

Klein noted that Baffin’s ultimate aim is to continue growing, but it will take some time. Baffin Records is mostly a one-man shop; While Giles is Baffin’s go-to producer and mix engineer, he is no longer technically an official member of the company. Additionally, Klein has limited free time due his day job as an American Airlines pilot and dedication to his family.

One way to allow for this growth while simultaneously accommodating a wider number of artists is through music publishing, to which Baffin has recently expanded. While the record label’s primary job is to create and distribute quality recordings of songs, publishing caters to the underlying composition of music and lyrics.

Regardless of who records and distributes a song, the underlying composition is still owned by the original songwriters. So, generally speaking, a record label usually represents the recording artist, whereas publishing represents the songwriters.

“The publishing arm allows us to take on more clients, more artists,” Klein said, adding that the goal is to place Baffin’s songs in television, film and ad campaigns.

Baffin has recently signed two new songwriters and is currently speaking with others. It has also partnered with Blue Buddha Entertainment, a Los Angeles-based music placement firm that pitches music to be used. According to Klein, the two have created a great synergy because Blue Buddha possesses many industry connections, while Baffin introduces emerging East coast bands.

As Baffin Records continues to evolve and flourish, Klein emphasized that the label’s North Star is and will always be to support artists. A songwriter and musician himself, Klein knows firsthand the powerful – and at times mystical – draw of creating music. It’s something Klein said has enhanced his own life drastically, and therefore a pursuit he hopes to make more accessible to others as well.

“I would love to be the first person someone thinks of when they have a great song and they want to get it to more people. I would love for them to send it over to Baffin Records and say ‘Hey, what do you think? Let’s make this bigger in some way,’ and I feel like we’re making those connections, so it’s exciting,” Klein said.

oanderson@alextimes.com
**DESIGN FOR MURDER**
Written by George Batson and directed by Jessie Roberts, Design for Murder is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
**Time:** Schedule at https://thelittletheatre.com
**Location:** 600 Wolfe St.
**Information:** https://thelittletheatre.com

**OCTOBER 15**
**OLD TOWN CHALK WALK** The Old Town North Alliance will be sponsoring the first annual “Chalk Walk” through multiple sites in Old Town North. Artists will be positioned throughout the neighborhood and will create works of art either on flat plaza surfaces or on building walls. Walk attendees are invited to see the artists in action or visit finished works.

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
**Location:** 901 N. Royal St.
**Information:** https://oldtownnorth.org

**OCTOBER 28**
**HARPSCICHORD MASTERWORKS** is an evening of classical sounds at the Athenaeum. Prize-winning Spanish harpsichordist Ignacio Prego will perform a program of 17th-century keyboard music by Bach, Froberger and Purcell. Reception with the artist to follow.

**Time:** 7 p.m.
**Location:** 201 Prince St.
**Information:** https://www.nvfaa.org/happening

**OCTOBER 29**
**RAVENS NIGHT** Dress up to spend Halloween weekend at The Birchmere for a unique event featuring fusion belly dance, live music, costume contest and a pre-show carnival. This year’s theme is the Underworld.

**Time:** 8 to 9:30 p.m.
**Location:** 201 S. Washington St.
**Information:** https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=47889

**NOVEMBER 12**
**ART ON THE AVENUE** Stroll down Mt. Vernon Avenue in Del Ray and visit more than 300 artists, musicians and food vendors.

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
**Location:** Del Ray
**Information:** https://www.artontheavenue.org/about

**DECEMBER 3 - 17**
**TINY TIM’S CHRISTMAS CAROL** Ken Ludwig’s and Jack Ludwig’s “Tiny Tim’s Christmas Carol” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

**Time:** To be announced, tickets on sale Nov. 3
**Location:** 600 Wolfe St.
**Information:** https://thelittletheatre.com

**OPENING RECEPTION 10.28.2022 6-8:30pm**
**ON EXHIBIT THROUGH 11.30.2022**
208 King St. Alexandria, VA 22314 703.739.9326 info@principlegallery.com principlegallery.com

**ART ON THE AVENUE** Stroll down Mt. Vernon Avenue in Del Ray and visit more than 300 artists, musicians and food vendors.

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
**Location:** Del Ray
**Information:** https://www.artontheavenue.org/about

**DECEMBER 3 - 17**
**TINY TIM’S CHRISTMAS CAROL** Ken Ludwig’s and Jack Ludwig’s “Tiny Tim’s Christmas Carol” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

**Time:** To be announced, tickets on sale Nov. 3
**Location:** 600 Wolfe St.
**Information:** https://thelittletheatre.com

**OPENING RECEPTION 10.28.2022 6-8:30pm**
**ON EXHIBIT THROUGH 11.30.2022**
208 King St. Alexandria, VA 22314 703.739.9326 info@principlegallery.com principlegallery.com
OCTOBER: Fall Classes • 14 Opening Reception • 15 Craft.Brew. Coffee House Edition • Patterns Exhibit • Ray Burns Exhibit

NOVEMBER: 1 Patrons’ Show Tickets On Sale • IMPart: Veterans’ Bladesmithing & Ceramics Exhibit • 11 Opening Reception • 16 Big Draw: Draw-a-thon • Nada Romanos Abizaid Exhibit

DECEMBER: Winter Workshops • Petite December (Holiday Gift) Exhibit • 15 Opening Reception • Cindi Lewis Exhibit

This Fall @ The Art League
Create Something More.

Visual Arts School & Gallery
Classes • Exhibits • Events
OPEN TO ALL AGES AND LEVELS
Year-round
105 N. Union St. | Alexandria VA | 22314
www.theartleague.org/events
Just as American female spies had done during the American Revolution and Civil War, women of the French Resistance during World War II created special messages by hiding laundry in coded displays: mended stockings hung in windows had communicated meanings. Guns and grenades were hidden in French lingerie shops under piles of lacy intimate apparel.

The American celebrated as the most successful Allied Resistance leader – whom the Gestapo considered “the most dangerous of all Allied spies” – was from the DMV.

The American was a woman.

A woman with one leg.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland in 1906, Virginia Hall grew up to be an athlete and accomplished markswoman. In the early 1930s, with threats of war increasing in Europe, she wanted to utilize her language, leadership and analytical skills by doing diplomatic work.

In a 1950s male-dominated United States State Department, women were still considered fragile and incapable of high-level diplomacy. Although Hall was highly qualified and hired for several European locations, she was assigned only secretarial jobs because she was a woman. On one such assignment in Turkey in 1935, Hall lost her left leg in a hunting accident. She was 27 years old.

Fitted with a prosthetic leg and eager for field work, Hall accepted a post with Britain’s new secret service agency Special Operations Executive in early 1940, where she was assigned to France. Hall became the first Allied woman to be deployed behind enemy lines.

Hall’s mission was to go undercover to create an Allied Resistance by collecting and passing on intelligence. In May 1940, the Germans invaded the country. Her duties soon included sabotaging the Nazis and Vichy regime. Hall eventually accumulated more than 1,500 resistance fighters, most of whom were men. Women represented 11% to 20% of the total number of Resistance fighters within France. Women also represented 15% of deportations to Nazi concentration camps.

When she wasn’t blowing up bridges, railroad trestles and roads – imitation horse dung was a popular explosive used to trick German troop convoys – Hall was training Resistance fighters, organizing secret parachute drops, plotting successful prison breaks, setting up safe-houses, transmitting coded radio messages, transporting weapons, money and supplies and crossing mountains in three-foot snow while limping and carrying a 40-pound wireless transmitter.

Hall used a variety of code names and was a mistress of disguise. In 1944, she asked a British dentist to grind down her teeth to enhance her cover as a French peasant. In order to infiltrate villages, Hall disguised herself as an aging milkmaid – drawing on her childhood experience tending to animals on her family’s Maryland estate.

Among her other clandestine accomplishments while in France, Hall was instrumental in transmitting German troop movements in advance of D-Day.

In 1944, she moved from working for the Brits in SOE to working for her native Americans in the newly created Office of Strategic Services – the American version of SOE and a precursor to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. The battle-scarred veteran was once again forced to fight a gender battle.

Although she tried to shun honors, Hall received the Member of the British Empire award for her courageous work for the SOE. In 1945, for her heroic work within OSS, she was presented with the U.S. Distinguished Service Cross – the U.S. Army’s second highest military decoration. She was the only civilian woman in WWII to receive the U.S. honor.

In the years following WWII, Hall married and joined the CIA – where, despite her exemplary record, her male supervisors limited her to “women’s desk work.” In 1966, at the age of 60, Hall retired. She died in Maryland in 1982.

Despite her office mistreatment during her CIA years, Hall is well remembered. Her portrait graces CIA Headquarters in Langley, Virginia. In December 2016, the CIA named a building after her.

Along with Virginia Hall, WWII generated other famous women spies, including jazz artist Josephine Baker, who worked for the French Resistance and Chef Julia Child, who, like Hall, worked for the OSS. Their stories are those of ongoing struggles against fear, discrimination and adversity, and demonstrate the perseverance and courage of women.

To read Parts I and II of our spy series, which appeared in the May 26 and June 30, 2022 editions of the Alexandria Times, visit alexandriacelebrateswomen-alextimes.com. The writers are founders of Alexandria Celebrates Women, a nonprofit that highlights influential women throughout the city’s history. Contact them at AlexandriaCelebratesWomen@gmail.com.
Tips for setting up a dedicated home office
BY BRANDPOINT

If you didn't work from home before, chances are you are or have the ability to now. According to Forbes, remote work is here to stay, with projections that 25% of all professional jobs in North America will be remote by the end of 2022.

Whether you already work from home, have a hybrid work schedule or are contemplating switching to remote work, you'll need to know how to do so successfully. Set your home office up yourself using these three tips.

Create a dedicated workspace

One of the perks of working from home is the freedom to work from your bed, couch, kitchen or patio. However, without a dedicated workspace, you'll constantly be hauling your laptop, notes, binders and other office supplies to a different spot every day, sometimes multiple times a day. After a while, what once felt like freedom can become another chore and can slow down your workday.

By having a dedicated home office, you can create a space that you step into every day and feel productive. Your laptop, monitor, printer, papers and other supplies are all in one place, so you can get to work as soon as you sit down. If you'd like a change of scenery, you can still move around and take calls or a meeting from other areas in your home, but you can always return to the security and convenience of

Built for success

SEE HOME OFFICE
HOME OFFICE FROM 28

your dedicated workspace.

If you have a hybrid schedule, set up your home workspace to mimic your office environment. This will make it easier to switch between spaces and continue your projects, whether at home or in the office.

Have the right tools

Now that you’ve set up a workspace, it’s time to fill it with the tools you’ll need to succeed. For example, if your work requires you to have several windows or programs open at once, set up two or more computer monitors. Multiple monitors allow you to look at a document, type up a report and attend a meeting simultaneously without juggling multiple minimized windows.

Similarly, having a home printer is incredibly convenient and can streamline your workflow. Even if your job doesn’t normally require you to print documents, your home printer will be useful on the rare occasions that you do. To give your eyes a much needed screen break, you can print your documents to read and markup with pen and paper.

Identify and manage distractions

Your life is filled with distractions that can take your focus off a pending project. Whether it’s the dog asking to go outside or household chores hanging over your head, it can be difficult to stay on task. And once you’ve become distracted, it can be difficult to get back into the swing of things.

To stay focused and productive while working from home, identify and manage distractions that will derail your workflow. When you take a break, let your dog out and play with them, so they’re less likely to ask for attention during a conference call. Set time aside before or after work to complete chores and errands, so you’re not thinking about them while trying to finish a budget report.

If you’re easily distracted by the social media apps on your phone, use a focus app to limit the hours in which you can use them outside work hours.

Working from home isn’t always easy, but you can set yourself up for success by tailoring your home office to your needs. Using these three tips, you can easily create a home working environment where you can feel productive and comfortable.

---

HOME OF THE WEEK

Enjoy this choice waterfront residence in Old Town. It is infrequent to find this location and quality; this home is a classic Colonial with an open, light-filled floor plan. With four large bedrooms, this home’s interior has been restored and curated with absolute premium fit and finish throughout. High ceilings, hand-cut crown molding, gleaming hardwood floors throughout, three gas fireplaces and solid hardwood doors begin the list of upgrades implemented in this exceptional transformation. The oversize kitchen has enormous storage capability and glass cabinets. Its polished marble countertops are opulent, and the premier appliances make this decorative and functional.

The main level floor plan has appreciable entertaining space and a tucked away powder room. The next level features the primary suite with a sitting area, gas fireplace, walk-in closets and a dual sink marble bath with a shower and soaking tub. Also on this level is a second bedroom, a fashionable marble full bath and a laundry area.

On the upper level are two nicely appointed bedrooms and a chic marble bath.

The entry level with a two-car garage features a gas fireplace, powder room, wet bar and walk-out access to the brick patio – all elevated for front seat perspective of waterfront activity, whether it’s sunrise crewing or sunset sailing.

The phenomenal water views from all levels and private setting are distinctive features in this opulent locality. This home features easy walkable access to all that defines why Best Places ranked Alexandria second, and Conde Nast ranked Old Town second of the best small cities in America! It is located six miles to National Landing, five miles to DCA and eight miles to our nation’s Capital.

HOMES ADVERTORIAL

---

AT A GLANCE

Address: 704 Fords Landing Way, Alexandria, 22314
Neighborhood: Fords Landing
Price: $3,495,000
Bedrooms: 4
Bathrooms: 3 full, 2 half
Year built: 1998
Contact: Janet Caterson Price
Realtors, Old Town janet@janetpricehomes.com 703-622-5984

WWW.ALEXTIMES.COM OCTOBER 13 2022 | 29
Transit alternatives

To the editor:
Now that Alexandria is being subjected to yet another Metro shutdown, the city is looking for additional ways to improve transportation alternatives. Promoting alternatives like transit and cycling is the best way to mitigate the negative effects of the shutdown.

One area that would benefit from improved transit infrastructure is connectivity between Old Town and Del Ray. First, let’s review what is currently out there. The DASH 33 line connects Potomac Yard with King St. Metro via Del Ray. Metrobus 10 lines connect Mount Vernon Ave. in Del Ray to Washington St. in Old Town via Braddock Rd. Metro. Metroway connects Potomac Yard to Braddock Rd. Metro via Route 1. The Old Town Connector connects King St. and Braddock Rd. Metro stations with the Waterfront.

This coverage isn’t terrible, but it isn’t great either. Popular destinations, both for residents and visitors, like the Waterfront and Del Ray are not connected by a one-seat ride and most potential riders avoid trips that require transfers.

I propose for DASH to fix this through expansion and extension of the existing OTC and 33 routes into a new route. My plan would create a single figure-eight-shaped route from King St. to Braddock Rd. via the Waterfront as per OTC, north through Del Ray and east to Potomac Yard, as per the 33, then south down the Rt. 1 bus lanes, west at Monroe Ave., then finally south down Commonwealth Ave. and back to King St. The route could be run in both directions if funding allows.

This configuration would retain nearly all existing coverage and greatly expand one-seat connectivity for many of the busiest parts of the eastern portion of the city. These changes would attract riders and reduce the need to use cars for these trips.

-Jeff Yutzler, Alexandria

More to the story

To the editor:
Your column, “Resident appeal denied,” misses much of what went on “beneath the surface.”

Like the Traffic & Parking Board chair and several speakers, some City Councilors seemed open to a different solution, but because no alternative solution could gain enough traction, ended up acceding to denying 155 residents’ appeal. Apparently sharing Mayor Wilson’s “Every street should have a sidewalk on both sides, full stop,” the dais was only too eager to get past the issue despite not having done a study of whether the street could be made one-way to save the nine parking spots the proposed sidewalk would displace, ascertaining the number of school children who would use the sidewalk, nor assessing environmental issues relating to the adjacent city park. The dais ignored testimony that retaining parking would protect school children using the sidewalk from being struck by an errant moving vehicle.

One hazard which received little attention, even though my public hearing statement raised it, is the steep hillside of the adjacent city park collapsing into the street. No formal study of the hillside’s stability, especially if it became waterlogged after extended rain, was presented. Instead, much ado was made about saving a mature tree or two as a rationale to take away parking instead, when council would rubber-stamp a development removing several mature trees.

Staff acknowledged that the street’s right-of-way extends several feet into the hillside. Were the street’s right-of-way fully utilized, a sidewalk could have been built without taking away nine parking spaces, even though it might

SEE DRUDI

Opinion

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

Photo of the week

Pumpkins and gourds decorate the exterior of a home in Alexandria.

Bus lanes on Duke Street

To the editor:
Streets are our largest public space and buses allow more people to use them. Dedicated center-running bus lanes on Duke Street are the way to maximize that space for people. Buses that do not have to contend with cars move quicker and more efficiently, improving travel options for all. If car travel time and bus travel time are closer, Alexandrians can make easier choices to use public transit. Living near Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, my family frequents Duke Street to visit stores, friends and athletic fields. My seventh grader plays soccer at Witter Field two to three times per week. Right now, the bus takes him 40 minutes while a car will take 15 minutes. A faster bus eliminates my eight to 12 weekly car trips, which alleviate traffic and help the environment. I can’t solve the cut-through commuters, but I will be able to get off the road. Plus, my son would be learning independence and navigational skills. Let’s prioritize moving Alexandrians over cars!

-Nicole Radshaw, Alexandria
Seminary Valley: safe ways to school

To the editor:

Currently, there is an active campaign against a much needed sidewalk on Polk Avenue. While this sidewalk may eliminate a handful of parking spots, though it is possible it won’t, it will provide a safe walking route to the local elementary school for many young children. The children in the neighborhood where this sidewalk is proposed are not bused to school, they must walk. The stretch of road currently has no sidewalk and cars parked there do not leave space for children to walk next to the park, but are instead forced to either walk in the street or cross at a tight bend where cars come speeding – especially at school pick up and drop off times. This several yards of proposed sidewalk will make a direct and safe walking route for these children.

The petition-writers say that a crosswalk would be a better option than a sidewalk, but this is false. First of all, the city has struggled to have full time crossing guards for all the necessary intersections in the neighborhood.

Last school year, parents were volunteering to help when possible, but this still often left intersections unguarded.

The neighbors who are upset about this are trying to act magnanimously, saying it’s about the little park on Polk Avenue. This park consists of a few benches and a trash can on an old house foundation and driveway surrounded by a small patch of trees.

In reality, these are some privileged neighbors who don’t want change, and have problems with the lower income families that live in the development that will benefit most from this sidewalk. They are more worried about possibly having to look longer for a parking spot or walk a little farther than they are about the safety of pedestrians, especially children, in the neighborhood.

Let’s work on making our neighborhood safe and welcoming for all who live here. Give kids safe routes to school at the cost of a few measly parking spots.

-Sarah Fanning,
Alexandria

Lagging test scores

To the editor:

The lagging proficiency rate of Alexandria City Public Schools’ Virginia Standards of Learning test scores should be a call-to-action for our community to come together to help our children.

One of the most effective ways almost anyone can help students is to tutor or mentor children.

The pandemic, which heightened socioeconomic disparities and separated students from needed instruction, has only furthered the need for individualized, in-person teaching. President Biden has responded to the pandemic-created academic gap by coordinating efforts to connect volunteer tutors with school districts. See more and sign up to help at www.partnershipstudentsuccess.org.

I have helped students at several Alexandria area tutoring services and there is a dire need for help, particularly for minority students. You do not have to be a calculus expert to help — tutoring can simply be reading a picture book to a first-grade student and asking them what certain words mean. You do not even need to work or volunteer at a tutoring center, you could simply volunteer a helping hand to your neighbor if you hear them mention their child is struggling in school or with homework.

Let’s come together for the kids!

-Aaron Kohrs,
Alexandria

Your Views

Filling in the Blanks

BY MELANIE KAY-WYATT, ED.D.

It truly is wonderful to walk the halls of our 18 Alexandria City Public Schools, experiencing a united nation of more than 15,400 students representing more than 110 countries and speaking 121 languages. The diversity within ACPS adds to the educational experience of each and every one of our students daily.

Amid our diversity, it is most important to achieve equity so the academic and social needs of all of our students are met. That is why ACPS prepares its path forward each year with areas of focus which were recently approved by the Alexandria City School Board for the 2022-2023 school year.

The focus on social, emotional and academic learning within all of our ACPS schools has already proven to be a healing force as students again feel connected to each other and to their school environment. Following the isolation experienced by many of our students during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 30 minutes of SEAL curriculum daily has helped our students reconnect. Use of the SEAL community circle has been the jump-start needed to help our students focus on building their relationship and conflict resolution skills. When students can discuss their feelings in a positive environment, it not only helps to address behavior challenges but also gives them the mindset to engage academically.

As ACPS strengthens its commitment to SEAL, all of our schools will be using the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment to be completed in the fall of 2022 and spring of 2023. For students in grades K-8, teachers will use DESSA to assess how often a student has demonstrated specific life skills in the past month. Students in grades 9-12 will complete a DESSA self-assessment. Once schools identify skills that may need more development, they can incorporate those areas into daily SEAL lessons. Our goal is to use SEAL to ensure each child is developing skills that will help them achieve lifelong success.

I see the dedication of our staff in providing an equitable education and realize certain student groups need additional support. That is why our areas of focus include continuous improvement in suspensions and chronic absenteeism for our Black and Hispanic students, as well as their academic enrichment and advancement. Our Student Support Teams provide the necessary social/emotional support through groups, mentor programs and one-on-one meetings to identify where extra help is needed. In addition, the School Board approved the allocation of funds to further address absenteeism and high school graduation rates among specific student groups with increased staffing in the College and Career Center. And as we have expanded the Graduation Task Force, we can consistently monitor the progress of all of our students toward graduation, leading to future success in college or the workforce.

Success across the board in ACPS is largely dependent on our staff, making their wellness and growth a vital area of focus. Our Human Resources department has been working diligently to enhance recruitment and retention of staff. Our Fiscal Year 2023 Combined Funds Budget serves to strengthen our efforts as it raises teacher pay, maintains high-quality healthcare benefits and offers resources for staff to grow their careers.

As we focus on our priorities, the areas of focus, ACPS has created its recipe for overall success. We are encouraged by all the ingredients that we have in our recipe to make this a successful and fulfilling school year for all students and staff.

The author is the Interim Superintendent at Alexandria City Public Schools.

WWW.ALEXTIMES.COM

OCTOBER 13 2022 | 31

BY MELANIE KAY-WYATT, ED.D.

ACPS’ recipe for success

SEMINARY VALLEY:

Your Views

Seminary Valley: safe ways to school

To the editor:

Currently, there is an active campaign against a much needed sidewalk on Polk Avenue. While this sidewalk may eliminate a handful of parking spots, though it is possible it won’t, it will provide a safe walking route to the local elementary school for many young children. The children in the neighborhood where this sidewalk is proposed are not bused to school, they must walk. The stretch of road currently has no sidewalk and cars parked there do not leave space for children to walk next to the park, but are instead forced to either walk in the street or cross at a tight bend where cars come speeding – especially at school pick up and drop off times. This several yards of proposed sidewalk will make a direct and safe walking route for these children.

The petition-writers say that a crosswalk would be a better option than a sidewalk, but this is false. First of all, the city has struggled to have full time crossing guards for all the necessary intersections in the neighborhood.

Last school year, parents were volunteering to help when possible, but this still often left intersections unguarded.

The neighbors who are upset about this are trying to act magnanimously, saying it’s about the little park on Polk Avenue. This park consists of a few benches and a trash can on an old house foundation and driveway surrounded by a small patch of trees.

In reality, these are some privileged neighbors who don’t want change, and have problems with the lower income families that live in the development that will benefit most from this sidewalk. They are more worried about possibly having to look longer for a parking spot or walk a little farther than they are about the safety of pedestrians, especially children, in the neighborhood.

Let’s work on making our neighborhood safe and welcoming for all who live here. Give kids safe routes to school at the cost of a few measly parking spots.

-Sarah Fanning,
Alexandria

Lagging test scores

To the editor:

The lagging proficiency rate of Alexandria City Public Schools’ Virginia Standards of Learning test scores should be a call-to-action for our community to come together to help our children.

One of the most effective ways almost anyone can help students is to tutor or mentor children.

The pandemic, which heightened socioeconomic disparities and separated students from needed instruction, has only furthered the need for individualized, in-person teaching. President Biden has responded to the pandemic-created academic gap by coordinating efforts to connect volunteer tutors with school districts. See more and sign up to help at www.partnershipstudentsuccess.org.

I have helped students at several Alexandria area tutoring services and there is a dire need for help, particularly for minority students. You do not have to be a calculus expert to help — tutoring can simply be reading a picture book to a first-grade student and asking them what certain words mean. You do not even need to work or volunteer at a tutoring center, you could simply volunteer a helping hand to your neighbor if you hear them mention their child is struggling in school or with homework.

Let’s come together for the kids!

-Aaron Kohrs,
Alexandria

Filling in the Blanks

BY MELANIE KAY-WYATT, ED.D.

It truly is wonderful to walk the halls of our 18 Alexandria City Public Schools, experiencing a united nation of more than 15,400 students representing more than 110 countries and speaking 121 languages. The diversity within ACPS adds to the educational experience of each and every one of our students daily.

Amid our diversity, it is most important to achieve equity so the academic and social needs of all of our students are met. That is why ACPS prepares its path forward each year with areas of focus which were recently approved by the Alexandria City School Board for the 2022-2023 school year.

The focus on social, emotional and academic learning within all of our ACPS schools has already proven to be a healing force as students again feel connected to each other and to their school environment. Following the isolation experienced by many of our students during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 30 minutes of SEAL curriculum daily has helped our students reconnect. Use of the SEAL community circle has been the jump-start needed to help our students focus on building their relationship and conflict resolution skills. When students can discuss their feelings in a positive environment, it not only helps to address behavior challenges but also gives them the mindset to engage academically.

As ACPS strengthens its commitment to SEAL, all of our schools will be using the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment to be completed in the fall of 2022 and spring of 2023. For students in grades K-8, teachers will use DESSA to assess how often a student has demonstrated specific life skills in the past month. Students in grades 9-12 will complete a DESSA self-assessment. Once schools identify skills that may need more development, they can incorporate those areas into daily SEAL lessons. Our goal is to use SEAL to ensure each child is developing skills that will help them achieve lifelong success.

I see the dedication of our staff in providing an equitable education and realize certain student groups need additional support. That is why our areas of focus include continuous improvement in suspensions and chronic absenteeism for our Black and Hispanic students, as well as their academic enrichment and advancement. Our Student Support Teams provide the necessary social/emotional support through groups, mentor programs and one-on-one meetings to identify where extra help is needed. In addition, the School Board approved the allocation of funds to further address absenteeism and high school graduation rates among specific student groups with increased staffing in the College and Career Center. And as we have expanded the Graduation Task Force, we can consistently monitor the progress of all of our students toward graduation, leading to future success in college or the workforce.

Success across the board in ACPS is largely dependent on our staff, making their wellness and growth a vital area of focus. Our Human Resources department has been working diligently to enhance recruitment and retention of staff. Our Fiscal Year 2023 Combined Funds Budget serves to strengthen our efforts as it raises teacher pay, maintains high-quality healthcare benefits and offers resources for staff to grow their careers.

As we focus on our priorities, the areas of focus, ACPS has created its recipe for overall success. We are encouraged by all the ingredients that we have in our recipe to make this a successful and fulfilling school year for all students and staff.

The author is the Interim Superintendent at Alexandria City Public Schools.
Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month: Tenants and Workers United

Historic Alexandria celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

Tenants and Workers United is dedicated to improving the quality of life for low-income communities of color across Northern Virginia, and is working with the community to create a more inclusive Alexandria. TWU takes a grassroots approach to its work by knocking on doors, listening to people’s concerns, hosting community meetings, providing civic education, conducting leadership trainings and launching issue campaigns to ensure that all people have a seat at the table where decisions that impact their lives are made.

TWU’s work is grounded in three core values. First, all people have a right to community, housing, health and education. Second, all communities have the right to control their own resources. Third, power is in collective action. TWU envisions a society that authentically values every human being and provides the structures, institutions and systems that make it possible for each person, family and community to thrive.

This work is tedious and time consuming, but it is the only thing that will fundamentally change systems and secure sustainable solutions to the problems that disproportionately impact low-income communities of color.

TWU’s ongoing work builds on a long history of wins, including establishing the Alexandria-Chirilagua Housing Cooperative, which remains affordable with rent prices frozen at 1990s rates; launching the Alexandria Union Cab; winning living wage laws in Alexandria City and Arlington County; establishing College Prep for All and Restorative Practices in Alexandria City Public Schools; winning changes to local policies around collaboration with Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and helping to win driver privilege cards for undocumented folks at the state level.

Today, TWU’s multifaceted and interconnected campaigns are led by community members and focus on the needs they identify, including securing deeply affordable and dignified housing; advancing tenants’ rights and pushing back against discriminatory management companies; ending the school-to-prison pipeline; securing immigrants’ rights; and ensuring an equitable recovery from the ongoing pandemic and economic crisis.

To make a donation or connect with TWU’s work, visit www.tenantsandworkers.org.

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

Weekly Poll

Last Week
Do you agree with Gov. Glenn Youngkin's proposed transgender student policies?

- 56% Yes.
- 43% No.
- 1% I’m not sure.
- 1% I don’t care either way.

This Week
How often do you attend arts-related events in the city?

- A) Often.
- B) Sometimes.
- C) Rarely.
- D) There’s an arts scene in the city?
Weekly Words

ECHO CHAMBER by Paul Coulter, edited by David Steinberg

DEATH NOTICES

FRANCES FRITZ (97), formerly of Alexandria, Sept. 29, 2022
JAMES GODWIN (87), formerly of Alexandria, Sept. 21, 2022
WENDY JONES (60), of Alexandria, Oct. 8, 2022
LORRAINE OWEN (101), formerly of Alexandria, Oct. 1, 2022
JAMES SELL (54), formerly of Alexandria, Sept. 30, 2022
CALENDAR

OCTOBER 15
TONS OF TRUCKS Enjoy your favorite vehicles, participate in a mobile art lab and meet the people who protect, build and serve our city. $5 per person and $15 per family, this event is for children of all ages.
Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: 3210 King St.
Information: https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail. aspx?si=49011

OCTOBER 16
PAWS IN THE PARK Paws in the Park returns to Oronoco Bay Park. Formerly known as Alexandria Love Your Pet Day, Paws in the Park brings together shopping, music, dining and adoptable animals.
Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: 4101 Eisenhower Ave.
Information: https://pawsintheparkva.com

OCTOBER 20
IMAGINE A DAY WITHOUT WATER One Water Alexandria is an education and outreach campaign sponsored in partnership with the City of Alexandria, AlexRenew and Virginia American Water. This event will provide education and outreach to residents about the water in the City through the lens of “Imagine A Day Without Water”, a national day to advance water awareness.
Time: 8:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Location: 301 King St.
Information: https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail. aspx?si=49079

LEGA L NOTICE

Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, held at City Hall, 301 King Street, Council Chamber and on Zoom webinar on Saturday, October 15, 2022 at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

PUBLIC HEARING, Second Reading and Final Passage of an Ordinance authorizing the owners of the property located at 300 Hume Avenue to maintain an encroachment for a fence along the public right-of-way on Hume Avenue (Implementation Ordinance for Encroachment No. 2022-00001) associated with 300 Hume Avenue approved by City Council on September 17, 2022. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

PUBLIC HEARING, Second Reading and Final Passage of an Ordinance to amend and reordain Section 6-805 (STANDARDS FOR OUTDOOR DINING) of Article VI (SPECIAL AND OVERLAY ZONES) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2022-00009 (Implementation Ordinance for Text Amendment No. 2022-00009) associated with aligning the King Street Outdoor Dining Program with the Commercial Parklet Program approved by City Council on September 17, 2022. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

PUBLIC HEARING, Second Reading and Final Passage of an Ordinance to amend and reordain Sheet No. 074.02 of the “Official Zoning Map, Alexandria, Virginia,” adopted by Section 1-300 (OFFICIAL ZONING MAP AND DISTRICT BOUNDARIES), of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, by rezoning the properties at 615A and 621 King Street from, CD/Commercial downtown to KR/King Street urban retail zone in accordance with the said zoning map amendment heretofore approved by city council as Rezoning No. 2022-00006 (Implementation Ordinance for Rezoning No. 2022-00006 associated with 615, 615A and 621 King Street approved by City Council on September 17, 2022). [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

PUBLIC HEARING, Second Reading and Final Passage of an Ordinance to amend and reordain Chapter 7 (COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (C-PACE)) of Title 7 (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

PUBLIC HEARING, Second Reading and Final Passage of an Ordinance to adopt the use of photo speed monitoring devices in highway work zones and school crossing zones and civil penalties in Section 10-3-878.12 Article 8 (RECELESS DRIVING, SPEEDING, ETC.) of Chapter 3 (OPERATION OF VEHICLES) of Title 10 (MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended. [ROLL-CALL VOTE]

PUBLIC HEARING, Consideration of a Five-Year License Agreement between the City of Alexandria, Virginia and Crown Castle Fiber, LLC., to Install Fiber in the City’s Rights-of-Ways for its Wireless Telecommunications Facilities and for Providing Broadband Services for its Commercial Customers in the City.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL (LIMITED COPIES AVAILABLE).

If the mayor finds and declares that the weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday. GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

LEGAL NOTICE

OFFICE USE ONLY

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 & CITY COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2022

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 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2022 7:00 PM, CITY HALL CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
The November 1, 2022 Alexandria Planning Commission Public Hearing and the November 12, 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_2ARLHmOrSTedNBeQoX5mFg

Zoom Audio Conference:
Diial in: 301-715-8592
Webinar ID: 912 2434 4615
Password: 15769

City Council (Public Hearing Webinar):
Registration Link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/ WN_H7LHmOrSTedNBsQxX3nFg

Zoom Audio Conference:
Diial in: 301-715-8592
Webinar ID: 975 0132 3254
Password: 958306

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

Special Use Permit #2022-00069
5800 A Edsall Road
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit for automobile sales and light automobile repair; zoned: CG/Commercial General.
Applicant: Koons of Alexandria, Inc.
Subdivision #2022-00006
1303 and 1305 Channel Place
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Subdivision to re-subdivide two existing lots; zoned: R-12.
Applicant: Richard F. Williamson and Dawn J. Williamson

Zoning Text Amendment #2022-00012
(A) Initiation of a Text Amendment and (B) Public Hearing and consideration of a Text Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to amend Article XI, Section 11-700 related to Transportation Management Special Use Permits, to adopt a policy for Transportation Management Plans (TMPs) and to allow changes to existing TMPs administratively.
Staff: City of Alexandria, Department of Transportation & Environmental Services

Zoning Text Amendment #2022-00013
(A) Initiation of a Text Amendment and (B) Public Hearing and consideration of a Text Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to add Section 7-2503 to create a Special Use Permit for internal loading spaces as an exclusion from floor area and amend Sections 2-165 and 2-145 to clarify the definition of loading space and to allow additional floor area exclusions for loading spaces with Special Use Permit approval.
Staff: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning & Zoning

City Charter Section 9.06 Case #2022-00004
Unit Block of King Street (between Union Street and the Strand) and Northern Portion of the Strand (between Wales Alley and King Street)
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for the Planning Commission to review whether the permanent closure of the 100 block of King Street to vehicular traffic by the City of Alexandria is consistent with the City of Alexandria Master Plan pursuant to Section 9.06 of the City Charter.
Applicant: City of Alexandria

Zoning Text Amendment #2022-00011
Development Special Use Permit #2022-10019
Special Use Permit #2022-00079
2424 Mill Road, 2403 Mandeville Lane
Public Hearing and consideration of requests for: (A) a Zoning Text Amendment to edit Ordinated Development District #2 to allow an animal care facility with overnight accommodations with a Special Use Permit; (B) a Development Special Use Permit to allow animal care facility with overnight accommodations with a Special Use permit (amending DSUP #2019-00018); and (C) a Special Use Permit for an animal care facility with overnight accommodations; zoned: CDD #2/Coordinated Development District #2.
Applicants: HTMC of Project Owner LLC, District Dogs, Inc., City of Alexandria, Department of Planning & Zoning

Master Plan Amendment #2021-00013
Rezoning #2021-00009
Development Special Use Permit #2022-10013
Transportation Management Plan Special Use Permit #2022-00080
2712 Duke Street – Witter Place
Public Hearing and consideration of requests for: (A) a Master Plan Amendment to the Taylor Run/Duke Street chapter of the Master Plan to change the land use designation from CG-Commercial General to RH-Residential High and to increase the maximum height from 35 to 60 feet; (B) a Rezoning of the property from CG/Commercial general zone to RMF/Residential Multi-family zone; (C) a Development Special Use Permit with Site Plan to construct a 94-unit multi-family affordable housing building with partially below grade parking, including a Special Use Permit request for Floor Area Ratio of 2.253 per Section 13-1406(B) of the Zoning Ordinance and modifications to the landscape guidelines; and (D) a Special Use Permit for a Tier 1 Transportation Management Plan; zoned: CG/Commercial General.
Applicant: Community Housing Partners, represented by Robert Brant, Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh, PC.

Development Special Use Permit #2022-10018
Vacation #2022-00002
Restaurant Depot Amendment - Expansion
4600 Eisenhower Avenue
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Development Special Use Permit and Site Plan with modifications to construct a 27,123 gross square footage expansion to an existing building and a request to vacate public Right-of-Way adjacent to the property; zoned OCM(100) / Office Commercial Medium (100).
Applicant: JMDH Real Estate of Alexandria II, LLC, represented by Mary Catherine Gibbs, Attorney

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 congregate recreational facilities at Francis C Hammond Middle 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 congregate 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

Special Use Permit #2022-00044
1501 Cameron Street - Jefferson Houston Elementary School Athletic Field Lights
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit to allow the installation of lighting for congregate recreational facilities at Jefferson Houston Elementary School; zoned: RB/Townhouse 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 congregate recreational facilities at Patrick Henry Elementary School; zoned: R-12/Single-family zone.
Applicant: City of Alexandria, Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

POTOMAC WINDOW CLEANING
Residential window cleaning inside and out. Serving the local area for 35 years. Family owned and operated. (703) 356-4459. Licensed, Bonded, Insured. The Montgomery family thanks you for your interest.

CHEVY CHASE FLOOR WAXING SERVICE
Wood floor polishing, buffing, waxing
Servicing local area 30 years Licensed, bonded & insured (301) 656-1810 We do not repair damaged floors
HayesWood Homes
YOUR HOME TEAM, NO ONE WILL TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOU

Every listing needs some preparation before going on the market. Some need staging. Some need a general sprucing up. Some need extensive work. This is precisely why home sellers choose HayesWood Homes and their “best contractor list in the business” to decide how to get their house ready for prime time, to sell quicker, for more money. HayesWood Homes has a proven plan that will reduce your stress, knowing they care about you and your biggest asset.

We know from experience that selling your house and moving can be an intimidating process. That’s why we provide services to help you plan, downsize, stage, pack, move and more. We’ll help you turn what seems like a daunting task into a convenient and easy process for you and your loved ones.

Contact HayesWood Homes and we will help you with your biggest investment ... and reduce your stress.

CHRISS HAYES & GORDON WOOD
Licensed in VA & DC | Chris: 703.944.7737 | Gordon: 703.447.6138
Team@HayesWoodHomes.com | HayesWoodHomes.com
109 S Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | Equal Housing Opportunity

FOR SALE
14 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
$3,250,000
Representing Seller

SOLD
1101 L Street NW #201
Washington, DC 20005
$370,000
Represented Seller & Buyer

SOLD
8310 Weller Avenue
McLean, VA 22102
$1,000,000
Represented Seller & Buyer

SOLD
3752 Valley Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302
$460,000
Represented Buyer

SOLD
3327 Mantua Drive
Fairfax, VA 22031
$1,000,000
Represented Buyer

SOLD
5403 Sideburn Road
Fairfax, VA 22032
$830,000
Represented Buyer

SOLD
323 Helmut Lane
Alexandria, VA 22304
$790,000
Represented Buyer

SOLD
1914 N. Underwood Street
Arlington, VA 22205
$1,275,000
Represented Buyer

SOLD
2207 Valley Circle
Alexandria, VA 22302
$1,213,000
Represented Seller

SOLD
4127 Fountainside Ln #1101
Fairfax, VA 22030
$435,000
Represented Seller