Boosting business associations

Alexandria Economic Development Partnership awards grants to eight city organizations

BY KASSIDY MCDONALD

The Alexandria Economic Development Partnership and the City of Alexandria will give out $535,000 in grants to eight different business associations in the city through a grant program.

The ALX B2B Business Association Grant Program will “fund existing or emerging business associations to support organizational capacity building, long-term sustainability and improved programming that promotes economic prosperity,” according to the AEDP website. "The grant aims to accelerate economic growth within business districts and among the small business community by creating robust and sustainable business associations."

Business associations are a vital part of economic development and success in the City of Alexandria. When individual businesses become members of business associations, they are given opportunities to network, create partnerships with other small businesses and can even create city-wide changes. Individual businesses choose to be members of bigger associations, but many find it comes as an advantage because of all the possibilities that become available to them once they join.

“Our business associations offer the opportunity to collaborate and coordinate for our businesses as they continue to recover from the challenges of the pandemic and potential future uncertainty. This program will give them the support they need to in turn support their member businesses and ensure that they and Alexandria continue not only to recover but to succeed well into the future,” AEDP President and CEO Stephanie Landrum said in a news release.

The money for the grant program comes from the American Rescue Plan Act. The $535,000 in grant money was given to the AEDP by the city. The AEDP then distributes money to the associations once the grantees are chosen. Applications for the grant opened this summer and were awarded on Oct. 24.

The grant program application was not open for individual businesses, but for business associations who have members in Alexandria. These include associations who made it their mission to promote businesses in targeted geographical areas in the city, those who highlight minority business owners and those who have demonstrated that the funds will be used to support their member businesses and ensure that they and Alexandria continue not only to recover but to succeed well into the future, AEDP economic recovery manager Senay Gebremedhin said in a news release.

“Business associations are a vital part of economic development and success in the City of Alexandria. When individual businesses become members of business associations, they are given opportunities to network, create partnerships with other small businesses and can even create city-wide changes. Individual businesses choose to be members of bigger associations, but many find it comes as an advantage because of all the possibilities that become available to them once they join.”

Senay Gebremedhin
AEDP economic recovery manager

ALEXANDRIA’S “SECRET” POOL HALL IS EXPANDING

Street Lights Billiards Academy plays host to worldwide professionals

BY KASSIDY MCDONALD

Street Lights Billiards Academy is known to many professional pool players and legends worldwide, but many city residents may not know that this secret spot is located right here in Alexandria. The business is even billed as “the first and only private billiards academy on the East Coast.”

The pool hall is on the third floor of an office building at 205 S. Whiting St., which Deon Chapman, the owner of SLBA and a semi professional pool player, originally bought for his construction company. Chapman got his start in the game of pool from a young age – he began working at a pool hall when he was just 14 years old. He's now been playing for over 30 years.

“I started pool probably on the incline wave of playing pool,” Chapman said. “Pool goes in waves – the popularity of it. Usually it gets popular after a movie or something, so 'The Color of...”

SEE POOL HALL | 8

SEE AEDP | 6
Timeless elegance and panoramic vistas from this classic brick four square perched majestically in the shadow of the Masonic Temple! This landmark residence has been brought back to life by Bluestone Builders in collaboration with Thompson Moran Design team. The home is the epitome of classic: with approx. 3,400 sq ft with 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2 covered porches, a gracious front entry foyer and a light filled home with an open floor plan, exposed brick wall and gourmet kitchen with center island! The main and upper level have 9 foot ceilings, transom windows above the doors, wide plank wood flooring, open staircase, 9” baseboard and oversized 2 over 1 windows. Entertaining is effortless with the open circular floor plan making this the social center of the home. Beautiful french doors lead to the back porch overlooking rear yard... perfect for al-fresco dining. The dining room has a secondary entry & powder room tucked away off the hall. The second level has an owners suite with custom built-ins & wainscoting, 2 walk-in closets, luxurious bathroom and a Jack & Jill bath flanked by two additional spacious bedrooms. The third level offers panoramic views of the City, full bath, 3 walk-in closets making a perfect guest suite or home office! The lower level incorporates an au pair suite/guest room, full bath, family room w service bar, laundry & private entrance. 2 off-street parking spaces. Blocks to Metro!
Election Day and Veterans Day changes

The City of Alexandria government offices will be open on Election Day, Nov. 8, and closed Veterans Day, Nov. 11, according to a news release.

Other scheduled changes will include the Commonwealth of Virginia courts in Alexandria being closed, including the Circuit Court, Clerk of Circuit Court, General District Court and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and Court Service Unit. All Virginia DMV Customer Service Centers in Northern Virginia will be closed both days, as well as the Alexandria City Health Department, the Flora Krause Casey Pharmacy and the Alexandria Health Department Teen Wellness Center at Alexandria City High School.

On Election Day, all Alexandria City Public Schools locations will be closed for students, but all ACPS schools will be in session on Veterans Day. On Nov. 8, all normal parking restrictions will be enforced but on Nov. 11, the Alexandria Police Department will suspend enforcement of parking restrictions at metered spaces and residential permit parking districts at legal parking spaces. On both Election Day and Veterans Day the fare-free DASH bus service and free King Street Trolley will operate on their regular weekday schedules.

On Nov. 8, all city museums will be closed, except for Gadby’s Tavern Museum, which will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. On Nov. 11, the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, the Freedom House Museum, Gadby’s Tavern Museum, Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary and Fort Ward Museum will be open. For more information, visit alexandriava.gov/historic.

Celebrate Virginia Cider Week in Alexandria

Hosted by the Office of Historic Alexandria in partnership with the Virginia Association of Cider Makers, the Alexandria Cider Festival will be held at the Lloyd House on Nov. 19 from 1 to 5 p.m. The event will include cider tastings, live music, a tasting glass for attendees and learning the history behind cider making and its connection to the city.

For example, cider was a popular beverage in the 18th and early 19th centuries in Alexandria and was even offered at Gadby’s Tavern.

The Alexandria Cider Festival includes offerings from Albemarle Cider Works, Big Fish, Bryant’s Cider, Lost Boy Cider, Muse Orchard, Potter’s Craft Cider, Winchester Cider Works and more. Rocklands food truck will also be in attendance at the event.

Tickets are $55 per person and can be purchased by visiting alexandriava.gov/Shop. Walk-in ticket pricing is $65 per person, if space permits, with special tasting talks offered for $5 per person. For additional information, please visit alexandriava.gov/historic.

Chamber ALX honors city businesses

The Chamber ALX held its annual Best in Business Awards to honor Alexandria businesses’ contributions to the community. The event took place at the Westin Alexandria Old Town on Oct. 27, where businesses were presented with awards in honor of their achievements in 2022.

Goodwin Living was the recipient for Nonprofit/Association of the Year. Every-Wheatley Funeral Home won Small Business of the Year, Marks-Woods Construction Services received Medium Business of the Year, and Large Business of the Year was awarded to Kearney & Company, P.C. Up and coming business, The Critical Mass, LLC received Rising Star Business of the Year.

Cathy Puskar of Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh was recognized as Business Leader of the Year and Chadwicks Restaurant received Overall Business of the Year.

Find more information about the Second Half 2022 Real Estate Tax, Stormwater Utility Fee, and Water and Sewer Bill Payment Options at alexandria.gov/Alex311.

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA SECOND HALF 2022 REAL ESTATE TAX, REFUSE FEE AND STORMWATER UTILITY FEE ARE DUE NOVEMBER 15, 2022

The second half 2022 real estate tax, refuse fee and stormwater utility fee must be paid by November 15, 2022, to avoid late payment penalty and interest.

Pay by credit card or eCheck on the City’s website at alexandriava.gov/Payments. Real estate tax payments can also be mailed to: City of Alexandria, PO Box 34750, Alexandria, VA 22334-0750.

Pay in person at the Treasury Division, City Hall, Room 1510 between 8AM and 5PM Monday through Friday. The drop box on the Royal Street side of City Hall is available 24 hours a day and is recommended for in person payments. Payments must be in the drop box by midnight on November 15, 2022, to be considered on time.

General real estate tax information is available on the City’s website at alexandriava.gov/RealEstateTax. Detailed assessment, tax balance, and payment information is available at realestate.alexandriava.gov.

For payment questions or to request a tax bill, please call the Treasury Division at 703.746.4800, or email realestate@alexandriava.gov. For assessment questions or to change a mailing address, please email realestate@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.4646. For questions on refuse fees or stormwater utility fees, please call Alex311 at 703.746.4311 or submit questions online at alexandriava.gov/Alex311.
Inova celebrates 150th anniversary

Inova Alexandria Hospital and the Board of Lady Managers celebrated their 150th anniversary at the Westin Alexandria on Oct. 28.

The event featured breakfast, a fashion show with designs by Sara Campbell Old Town and a silent auction, in which attendees could bid on more than 20 themed gift baskets.

Proceeds from the event will support the purchase of a Brevera Breast Biopsy System for the hospital. This system allows radiologists and technologists to stay in the exam room with patients throughout the breast biopsy process and produces real-time imaging and clarification that can speed up the procedure.

The fashion show featured models from Inova and BLM members who were styled by Campbell herself.

Mary Ryan, president of the Board of Lady Managers, recognized past presidents from BLM history and members that were in attendance. The board has a storied history; in 1894 the BLM started the first nursing school in Northern Virginia, graduating nurses almost yearly through 1987. Not long after, in 1900, the BLM began the first outpatient care facility in the state. A representative from the Senate of Virginia presented the BLM a certificate of commendation as a token of thanks for "meeting the need for 150 years."

Dr. Rina Bansal, president of Inova Alexandria Hospital commented on the BLM's contributions to the hospital, such as the spiritual care fellowship program, which aids future clergy leaders in their ministries.

"[The BLM] ensures that team members, both spiritual and clinical, can provide the highest caliber care to patients," Bansal said.

The board supports ongoing technology needs like a neurosurgical microscope, a simulation training lab and conversion to negative pressure rooms in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Inova's new hospital, which is set to open in 2028, will have a comprehensive cancer center and level 2 trauma center.

"The Alexandria community is an ongoing circle of support that has sustained the community, the hospital and the board throughout the years," Ryan said.

-awilson@alextimes.com
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Eight business associations applied and every applicant received a grant: Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, Alexandria Minority Business Association, Inc., Del Ray Business Association, Eisenhower Avenue Public-Private Partnership, Old Town Business Association, Old Town North Alliance, Social Responsibility Group and West End Business Association all received funding through the program.

Senay Gebremedhin, the AEDP’s economic recovery manager has led the grant-making process with the eight different business associations. He said the organization had two primary goals when it came to the program.

“The initial goal was to first see if there are businesses that wanted to organize themselves into an association and offer services in areas where businesses felt they were not being represented or wanted representation. ... The second goal was to support existing business associations that have been serving the community, to give them funding to either expand their capacity or help them refocus their programming on the needs of their members,” Gebremedhin said.

The AEDP gave grant funding to two associations that focused on underrepresented groups, the SRG and the Alexandria Minority Business Association, but Gebremedhin said four out of the eight groups had applications that narrowly focused on promoting minority representation within their respective associations and within the city as a whole.

West End Business Association has majority minority membership and is led by a minority business owner, Gebremedhin said. The other business association that focuses on minority businesses in Alexandria is the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce. In their grant application, they noted that the grant funding would be used to help promote minority owned businesses in the city. They would use the funds to help minority business owners with leadership and development, as well as doing outreach.

Pastor Lou Whiting is the president and one of five founders of the Social Responsibility Group, which received funding from the AEDP through the ALX B2B Business Association Grant Program.

“Our initiative that drove us to form the group was to be more socially responsible individuals in the City of Alexandria, looking at different social issues. Not just Black Lives Matter ... [but also] housing and even a project we’re working on now with Douglass Memorial Cemetery ... We want to span visibility, so that is why we organized this group,” Whiting said.

“AEDP’s grant funding was more for actually building capacity and sustainability for the group, which is sorely needed” Whiting added. “It’s hard to build an organization of all volunteers. We wanted it to be sustainable.”

Goals for the SRG include bringing a lot more attention to Black businesses in the city. In August 2023, the group plans on tying in with National Black Business Week to do a “Black Business Weekend” in Alexandria. This would be graduated to an entire week eventually, Whiting said.

Grant money from the funding may go towards needed equipment for the group, renting a shared space for meetings and business and for one of their main goals which is to build an African American business directory.

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November marks National Gratitude Month

To my incredible network of clients and friends who have put their trust in me for more than twenty years, I am truly humbled and forever grateful. Thank you for your continued support.

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Alexandria, VA

For Sale
$889,000
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Vienna, VA

Sold
$1,500,000
1000 Dartmouth Road
Alexandria, VA

Sold - Represented Buyer
$800,000
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$1,300,000
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Money’ wasn’t too far behind when it came out that I started playing pool ... I would say for the first five years of me playing pool I never missed a day playing pool, even when I was sick, I was still out there playing pool.”

Once Chapman officially owned the office space, he asked his landlord if he could put in a pool table – and one quickly turned into five which turned into 10. Chapman presented his landlord with a business model for Street Lights Billiards Academy, and she agreed. He opened the location in 2019, about a month or two before businesses started to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The members only pool club is different from what one might expect when they hear the words “pool hall.”

Chapman’s pool hall is about 2,000 square feet and is home to 10 diamond pool tables, which he said are the best quality, and what all the professionals prefer to play on. He got the idea of a “true pool club” from the popularity they’ve gained in Europe, by offering membership to people interested and a place for them to go to become more involved with the sport.

“We offer a clean, non-smoking, and judgment-free atmosphere for you to meet other pool enthusiasts who want to have fun, but are serious about improving their pool game,” the SLBA website reads. “We are not a bar who is driven by the bottom line profits of alcohol sales or how much money is lining our pockets with gambling machines.”

The atmosphere of SLBA makes it a perfect spot for everyone who loves pool – whether that is a professional player who travels across the globe for competitions, or a kid who wants to become better at the sport.

Most tournaments are live streamed, Chapman said, and then archived on the SBLA’s Facebook page so that people can enjoy them from the comfort of their own homes whenever they choose. Each table in the pool hall has a camera for live recording games overhead.

“Eagle Eye” framed on their wall, and a jersey of his with the number 714 on the back. This was a major accomplishment for both Shaw and the SBLA, who have pictures of the “Eagle Eye” framed on their wall, and a jersey of his with the number 714 on the back.

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In addition to looking for more members, Chapman and SLBA are looking to expand in a number of ways. One project Chapman is working on is creating a deli/cafe in the pool hall so that members can enjoy

For more holiday events and things to do, check out: VisitAlexandria.com/Holidays

The pool hall welcomes people of all ages and skill levels.
Chapman said that creating “pool hubs” in major cities that are relevant to the sport would allow for tours to visit each city and not have to spend much money or waste resources setting up and breaking down.

“It would almost feel like you were in a banquet room of a hotel, which is what they do now. All these tours rent out convention space or hotel space for their events and what they’re doing is they have to truck those tables in, they have to set them up, they have to set up the lights … and they do that day in and day out from event to event,” Chapman said.

“So, my theory is, Why not create an actual arena where different tours could come in and lease the space?”

-kmcdonald@alextimes.com
26th Annual Del Ray Halloween Parade

The 26th Annual Del Ray Halloween Parade drew record crowds on Sunday afternoon, as thousands of families and pets in costume marched down Mount Vernon Avenue before Halloween. Prizes were given for best decorated Halloween house and business, and there were stroller/group and pet costume contests.
Making money last

How to strategize when it comes to financial planning

BY SHANNON ROWAN, CFP, AIF

We’ve all experienced significant change as pandemic-influenced economics have become the new normal. While supply was constrained by global shutdowns, demand was stoked through massive government intervention, all of which was exacerbated by food and energy disruptions caused by the war in Ukraine. As a result, inflation has wreaked havoc on the price of nearly everything over the past year. A potential benefit is that Social Security beneficiaries will receive a cost of living increase of nearly 9% in 2023. Unfortunately, most of the changes have not been positive.

Equities are embroiled in shifting markets, risk is more difficult to evaluate and understanding how portfolio components correlate is more important than ever.

- Consider using a laddering strategy. After years of languishing near zero, yields on fixed income investments like bonds have surged in 2022. However, it’s difficult to know how much higher rates may go, which may create uncertainty about where to invest. With a laddering approach, you select investments that mature periodically over a specified timeframe. This helps to avoid having all of your invested funds tied up as rates change. For example, selecting bonds that mature over the next three to five years means that you’ll have a portion of your investment maturing each year. If rates increase, you’ll be able to reinvest at the higher rate with the bonds that have matured. If rates decline, you still have the higher rates from today secured for the portion of your overall investment that has not yet matured.

- Dollar cost averaging helps smooth volatility when attempting to invest or distribute money. Generally, you will contribute a set amount according to a predetermined schedule. The result is that your fixed amount buys fewer shares when prices are high and more shares when prices are low. Over time, your price to own the investment, known as cost basis, should be closer to the average over the investment period.

Undoubtedly, inflation is the prevailing issue currently impacting the economy and financial markets. However, many factors including demographics, government policies and global trade influence the direction of both. The equity markets are considered a leading economic indicator and the relationship between short-term and long-term bond yields are seen as a barometer of economic health: both suggest recession is on the horizon, or perhaps is already here. The potential for another dramatic economic shift provides an opportunity to review and reassess short and long term investment and financial planning goals. There are a number of resources available to conduct these analyses. However, issues like managing retirement distributions can be daunting, and when combined with related considerations such as health care, taxes and social security, the process may be overwhelming.

A financial planner can help you assimilate your financial information and decision-making into an organized and thoughtful strategy and keep your plan on track with periodic reviews.

The writer is director of wealth services and executive vice president of Burke & Herbert Bank.

Obituary

Rosa Ellen Allen McGrath

August 22, 1942 – August 17, 2020

Rosa Ellen Allen McGrath (Wheaton, Ill. and Alexandria, Va.) faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, devoted sister, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister in Christ to many, went to her eternal home on Aug. 17, 2020 with her family by her side.

Rosa was born on Aug. 22, 1942 in Alexandria, Va. Her parents raised her to love Jesus, serve others and do her best. While Rosa enjoyed her family, friends, church, working for NASA and the Department of Agriculture, playing the piano, fashion and supporting the Wheaton College students, it was by way of her words of wisdom, quiet loving care and prayers, lifelong dedication to Christ, her Bible, family, and friends and her love which impacted so many people from all walks of life. Rosa was notably devoted to helping the military Veterans of her family. Rosa had many spiritual gifts, a beautiful smile, heart and soul. She will be missed everyday by so many, but we know someday we will be with her in heaven. Rosa lived well, loved well, sacrificed well and died well, with Jesus with her, always.

Rosa was preceded in death by her father Charles Watt Allen, her mother Theresa (nee Lawrence), her sister Phyllis Grey (Col. Robert D. Hennessy), nephew Michael. She is survived by her Uncle Harvey (Joan), her sister Cynthia Lee, brother Charles Watt Allen, Jr., children, Brian, Michelle (Rey), and Brenda, her children’s father Neal, grandchildren, Amanda, Chase, R. Ryan, Melissa, Kelly, Kayli, Jacob, and great-grandchildren Hanna, Evan Brach, Grace, Mercury, nephews David, Michael, Charles, nieces Melonye, Melissa (Sean), extended family, many friends, sisters and brothers in Christ.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to one of the charities Rosa supported: Disabled Veterans of America, Purple Heart Foundation, or local Wheaton, Ill. charity People’s Resource Center.
ACPS talks school safety

Officials share steps to protect students in public forum
By Olivia Anderson

Alexandria City Public Schools officials and district parents discussed school safety last week during a public forum at George Washington Middle School, in which they covered topics such as the district’s partnership with the Alexandria Police Department and how families can work with ACPS to keep students safe.

Held by ACPS, the Alexandria Council of PTAs and Parents for Safe Schools, the event featured a panel of city experts and school leaders. Panelists included Interim Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Director of Safety & Security Services John Contreras, Director of School Social Work Faiza Jackson, APD Officer Richard Sandoval, Gang Prevention Community Task Force Member Mike Mackey, Everytown for Gun Safety representative Andy Corso and Department of Transportation & Environmental Services Urban Planner Alex Carroll.

School safety has been a hot-button issue in the community for some time. Last week’s event follows multiple safety-related incidents in the district, including the stabbing of an Alexandria City High School student in May and numerous student arrests. ACPS has also come under fire by some parents for its controversial school resource officers program, which was removed and subsequently reinstated.

At the top of the forum, Kay-Wyatt emphasized to attendees that maintaining safety in schools is a “top priority to ensure that [the] students and staff feel welcome, supported and safe in all … school buildings.”

She called attention to several measures ACPS has taken to promote safety, such as clearly designating student and staff entrances, adding school security officers, establishing a new identification card requirement at ACHS, staggering dismissal times and providing social and emotional support.

Kay-Wyatt also said that collaboration between parents and ACPS is integral to maintaining safe schools. This means remaining aware of ACPS’ security measures and reporting any and every concern to staff.

“I hope that it’s apparent that everyone in our community … has a role to play in our collective safety and security,” Kay-Wyatt said. “I ask families to partner with us. You can support our efforts by staying up to date on our Alexandria City Public Schools staff and student well-being, safety and security measures, and ensuring that your students and families comply with all of our requirements.”

During the forum, panelists discussed specific measures ACPS has taken to bolster physical school security. According to Contreras, the district has installed a new visitor management system, called Raptor, which offers more robust capabilities for emergency management when schools run emergency drills. He also said that 15 schools have new security camera systems, with the three remaining schools...

“...we will do what we need to do to protect our schools, and sometimes that means holding onto that information so it doesn’t fall into the wrong hands,”

– Melanie Kay-Wyatt, ACPS interim superintendent

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nearing completion, and that all campuses are now equipped with a new intrusion system that is activated after everyone exits the building for the day.

Jackson spoke to ACPS’ commitment to social emotional learning and wellness, during which she highlighted the importance of prioritizing “connection before content.”

“What that really means is that we recognize the power of positive relationships, increasing youth engagement in schools, and increasing overall social emotional wellness,” Jackson said.

This is done through the district’s multi-tiered systems of support, or tiered interventions. The tier one level gives every student 30 minutes of social emotional academic learning, or SEAL, time per day. The tier two level recognizes that some students need additional support and offers resources like support teams as well as school psychologists, nurses, social workers and counselors. The tier three level is more individualized, looking at specific needs of the student. Examples of tier three support might include one-on-one support, more intensive behavior supports and intervention plans or a connection to community resources.

Several city officials spoke at the discussion as well, such as Sandoval, a police officer who was recently placed at Francis Hammond Middle School.

“It does take a village. It can’t just be the police or just any one unit. We all have to work in partnership for the betterment of our children,” Sandoval said.

Sandoval commented on his personal experience as an officer in schools and the arch of his relationship with students. Initially, he said he was met with skepticism and reservations, but over time students began to warm up to him. Many now call him “poli” as a term of endearment, or run up to give high fives.

Students also tell Sandoval about issues they’re struggling with, he said, and often engage in conversations. One student recently came up to him and...
Joan Porche’s Lee Street home is a tapestry of stories. Some of the tales are more recent, having come from either Porche’s family herself or from the travelers who rent out the bottom floor while passing through town. But others are decades older, a product of a home that has been lived in and loved for many years before Porche even moved in.

Porche bought the house eight years ago from its original owner, Katie Noe, who lived in it for 50 years and raised all her children there. Noe was known in the community for the many neighborhood dinner parties and celebrations she held at her home, making it something of a fixture for the Lee Street neighbors – some of whom lived in the area while Noe did, and still live there today.

Since purchasing the home, Porche has renovated many aspects of it, specifically the garden level annex in which she tore out the sub-floor and took out all of the old ground plumbing. When redoing the pipe-work, Porche put backflows on all the newly installed pipes so that if the city floods during a heavy rainstorm, the annex will remain completely dry.

The space was initially a finished basement, but Porche installed a new HVAC system with ductless mini splits – which allows occupants to control the temperature themselves. She also converted what used to be a staircase into a full bath in order to separate the annex from the rest of the home, so that it was completely private.

Porche began renting out
the downstairs space as an Airbnb in April, which she said has been going smoothly so far. Upon entering the annex through a small brick cove, guests enter a pristine white kitchen. The space includes brand new appliances, such as a coffee maker that brews espressos and cappuccinos.

The kitchen leads to a living room area with chairs and a pull-out EJ Victor couch. There is also a contemporary painting by local artist Jeff Erickson.

Finally, a new white dutch door opens up to the back yard. There is a row of bright coleus plants immediately upon walking outside, followed by a brick patio featuring a baby blue couch and table with chairs.

“They have access to this, and I think it’s pretty different to have your own private outdoor space, if you’re a bride [for example], or if you just need some quiet time outside but don’t necessarily want to leave your room” Porche said.

For now, the back yard space is just for Airbnb guests, but Porche said that the master plan includes a deck that will come to fruition in the future. Once it does, Porche and the guests will both be able to separately enjoy the yard.

Because Porche’s annex is both private and fully furnished, she could theoretically flip the Airbnb space upstairs and live downstairs. It’s something she’s thought about doing in the future, potentially as a way to age in place – she’s even installed chair-height toilets in the bathroom – but for now, she plans to keep her living situation as is.

The overall aim with the annex, Porche said, is to create a peaceful home-away-from-home feel for guests. Many of the travelers Porche meets are people who are visiting for work, athletic events or business meetings.

“I wanted it to be contemporary, very comfortable but very modern so that people felt like they were at home, because it is my home,” Porche said, laughing. “Even though it’s a completely separate, pri-

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The annex was inspired in part by The Charles Hotel, a four-star hotel in Cambridge, Mass.

The annex was modeled after The Charles Hotel, a four-star hotel at which Porche would stay while visiting her daughter at school in Cambridge, Mass. As she was renovating, Porche kept The Charles in mind because it “had a lot of character, was very homey” and she “felt very comfortable there.”

The Charles provided a framework for Porche when it came to decor and preserving the home’s historic character while simultaneously imbuing the space with modern touches.

“That was the starting off point [to] taking an old building and keeping the character but modernizing it,” Porche said. For example, although Porche replaced the light fixtures, she used Hudson Valley Lighting to keep them in character with the house. She also kept the original downstairs fireplace and upstairs library intact.

Through all the renovations, Porche said that owning the home comes with a certain responsibility to honor its origins.

“We tried to keep the architectural integrity of the house while modernizing,” Porche said. “... [I] just want to be a good steward of the house for its historic character and that kind of thing.

Past life

Before Porche moved into her Lee Street house, it belonged for half a century to Noe, who was known throughout the community for many contributions, from extravagant community get-togethers to the explosion of Lee Street trick-or-treating.

Deborah Bigelow, a 50-plus-year Lee Street resident who neighbors call “the matriarch,” said Noe would throw everything from Thanksgiving to Christmas to St. Patrick’s Day celebrations.

“She knew everybody in the world,” Bigelow said. “... She

SEE PORCHE

PHOTOS/OLIVIA ANDERSON

The annex was inspired in part by The Charles Hotel, a four-star hotel in Cambridge, Mass.

PHOTO/OLIVIA ANDERSON

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PHOTO/OLIVIA ANDERSON

Porche converted what used to be a staircase into a full bath in order to separate the annex from the rest of the home.
PORCHE was a great entertainer. She would have a ‘this’ party and a ‘that’ party.”

Noe also worked as a nursery school teacher for many years and when she often sat on her porch, students would run up to her to say hello.

Bigelow said that Noe was one of the pioneers behind a regional tradition: trick-or-treating on Lee Street. Originally a small block-party celebration, the annual ritual blossomed into a large-scale event that attracts thousands of trick-or-treaters each year.

According to Bigelow, Noe was interviewed by The Washington Post about the small tradition. Once the story went out, the tradition was no longer small.

“She said all these innocent things that bubbled up. She said, ‘Kids come and everyone sits out here and hands out candy, and some people pour somebody a glass of wine as they went by,’ and that’s what did it,” Bigelow said.

“Now it’s like a G-rated Mardi Gras,” Porche added.

Around the time Noe eventually moved from the Lee Street home to a senior living community in the city, Porche was looking for a three-bedroom house. Immediately after seeing the Lee Street home, Porche said she fell in love. Noe accepted Porche’s offer, and the two still keep in touch today.

The Lee Street home is rich with stories, history and character, which is why Porche places such a high value on honoring its past, even when renting out a portion of it.

“The inspiration was the stewardship of the house, how it was used 50 years before, and how do we keep the integrity while modernizing it?” Porche said. “We spend all of our time and money and resources to preserve the house, and that is quite different from most people when they buy a house. They don’t want that. But here we’re painting, we’re keeping the character up, and it’s because we love old houses, we love the character, we love the architecture, and we’re into it.”

–oanderson@alextimes.com

PORCHE FROM | 20

PHOTO/OLIVIA ANDERSON

A contemporary painting by local artist Jeff Erickson hangs above the couch.
Prospective home buyers are well aware of the recent increases in home mortgage rates and the reduction in their buying power. In addition, inventory is depressed somewhat by homeowners with very low interest mortgages who are disinclined to sell their homes and relinquish those low rates. However, historically speaking, mortgage rates are still far below those approaching 20% in the 1980s.

The following is directed toward prospective home buyers. Two broad categories of options to increase your home buying power include financing and home features. First, don’t be discouraged. The good news is that sellers are becoming anxious and are trying harder to make their homes attractive and to price them right.

Consider mortgage options. There are many types designed to satisfy differing circumstances. In the recent past, fixed rate mortgages for 15 and 30 years have been common with some rare terms as long as 40 years. Generally, the shorter the term, the lower the interest rate, but the shorter term results in a higher monthly payment. Currently, the spread between 30-year fixed and 15-year fixed mortgages is in the neighborhood of 0.5%.

As interest rates rise, adjustable rate mortgages become more prevalent. They offer lower initial rates, but are subsequently adjusted periodically based on prevailing interest rates. For example, a 5/1 ARM continues at an initial interest rate for five years and is then subject to adjustment annually, and possible increases with an overall cap, for the remainder of the mortgage term. These mortgages are especially attractive to buyers who anticipate selling within the initial lower interest period. Typical ARMs today are 5/1, 7/1 and 10/1.

Less common are interest only mortgages. The principal remains constant and only the interest accrued is paid each month. However, the terms are often shorter with very high payments, or even the entire principal due when the interest only period expires. Also infrequent, but sometimes offered, is seller financing. A recent listing in Alexandria was advertised with seller financing in the range of 3% to 5% based on the buyer’s financial position. Similarly, new home builders sometimes have arrangements for attractive financing packages.

A higher down payment not only decreases the amount to be borrowed but can also result in a lower interest rate and can improve the applicant’s probability of mortgage approval. Very low down payments usually require private mortgage insurance or PMI to protect the lender in the event of default. Avoid PMI if at all possible. It can cost as much as 0.5% to 1% of the loan amount annually plus an up-front payment.

Another option for lowering the interest rate is the purchase of discount points. Typically, a decrease of about 0.25% in the interest rate can be realized with an up-front payment equal to 1% of the loan amount. With the recent rapid increases in interest rates, it is a good idea to explore locking in your rate with a provision to lower it if rates drop before final mortgage approval.

After establishing buying power, it is possible to stretch that power in several ways related to home features. A powerful option is to look beyond the superficial features of a property. Garish painted walls can be repainted; floors refinshed; kitchen appliances ungraded; shrubs trimmed; and dirty exteriors washed. Look at a prospective home for its potential—not its surface blemishes. Imagine renovations that can be made later as resources become available. That said, a competent inspection is important to reveal serious defects that could be surprisingly expensive.

A property that is adequate for current needs but too small for future plans can be a good starting place if there are options for expansion. Consider the potential for future basement finishing, additional levels, increased footprint and garage conversion to add living space. Explore possibilities for accessory dwelling units, garage apartment, English basement, and a separate outbuilding as a way to supplement income with rent. With recent widespread concern about the shortage of affordable housing, many jurisdictions are adopting policies allowing—even encouraging—ADUs.

Don’t be afraid to negotiate. List prices are aspirational and the market is moving away from the overheated sellers’ market to a more normal market. The price the seller would like to get and the price to which the seller will agree are often quite different. Contingencies including inspection and appraisal have become more palatable to anxious sellers and offer opportunities for negotiation.

These basic options can be used to stretch your home buying power. By all means shop around for the capable professionals that offer good value and that you trust to guide you through the nuances of what is, for most families, their largest financial investment.

The writer is a realtor with TTR Sotheby’s International Realty.
“Oh, there’s no place like home for the holidays,” crooned Perry Como in the iconic 1954 classic Christmas song of the same name. That stirring sentiment rings particularly true this year as we look forward to once again hosting celebrations at home with loved ones. If you’re planning to stay home for the holidays, now is the time to start thinking about how you can create a festive and joyful atmosphere for yourself and your guests.

Decorations, food and entertainment are all important aspects of the holiday season.

Stop and smell the holidays

Five candle scents that will ring in the festive season
BY BRANDPOINT

1. Scents to greet your guests
   When your guests arrive, you’ll want to have a scented candle burning that makes them feel relaxed and uplifted as soon as they walk in. In your entryway, light an aromatic candle with notes of pine or fir balsam to greet guests with a fresh, woodsy fragrance.
   Even if you don’t have a Christmas tree, a scented candle with notes of pine needles and juniper will have guests believing that you brought one home that day. You can also opt for other evergreen candles with notes of white birch and crisp winter air to capture the scents of a snowy winter day in the woods.

2. Scents to gather around
   No matter where you start the evening, chances are everyone will eventually gather and end the night in your living room. To create a cheerful and festive atmosphere, choose a candle with bright, invigorating notes. This is sure to remind you and guests of cherished holidays spent sipping mulled wine in front of the fireplace.

3. Scents for cooking and dining areas
   Choosing a scent for spaces where you will be cooking or eating can be tricky because you don’t want a candle fragrance to compete with the aroma of your holiday dishes. Likewise, burning a scented candle during dinner can interfere with the dining experience.

SEE CANDLES
and take away the enjoyment of the meal and ambiance.

Instead, after the cooking is finished, burn a dessert-scented candle in the kitchen with notes of buttercream and brown sugar that will have your guests’ mouths watering. Even if there is nothing cooking in the kitchen, the inviting fragrance will have them thinking you just took a tray of freshly baked sugar cookies out of the oven.

4. Scents for you

As a host, don’t get so caught up in the party planning that you forget to enjoy the holiday season. Take time to take care of yourself by relaxing at home in your favorite spot with an aromatherapy candle. A scented candle with soothing notes of geranium, frankincense and cedarwood can produce a sense of tranquility and calm to help you find a sense of inner peace during the busy holiday season.

5. Scents for the ones you love

Gift a sensory experience by buying scented candles for those near and dear to you. While the act of gifting scented candles may have served as a punchline on late-night TV in recent years, the $23 billion U.S. home fragrance market is no joke. Americans love scented candles. Whether your loved ones prefer warm, comforting candles with notes of cinnamon, pumpkin and vanilla, gourmand and fruity scents or woody, winter-themed fragrances, you’re sure to find options to satisfy them all. Best of all, they’ll think of you every time they light their candles.

Set the seasonal mood with scents that evoke warmth, relaxation and togetherness. Using these five home fragrance tips, you can create a holiday everyone is sure to remember.

---

**HOME OF THE WEEK**

Fantastic location and outstanding views in Old Town

This amazing townhouse in Old Town Village is truly one of a kind. It is situated on the beautiful “Village Green” courtyard overlooking the community salt-water pool, just three and a half blocks from King Street’s shops and restaurants, and has a walkable score of 94 out of 100.

The 2,771 square foot Madison model is ideal for events and activities, working from home and being part of a welcoming community. Drop off your keys in the large foyer with 24” x 24” Italian tile flooring before you walk through the French doors into your home office or comfortable den.

The stunning open main level features a spacious updated kitchen, gorgeous living/dining room, the family room with built-ins and a fireplace as well as a lovely breakfast room.

The expansive primary bedroom with soaring ceilings, a full wall of windows and an enlarged custom walk-in closet provides a wonderful retreat. Relax in the remodeled primary bath with a free-standing soaking tub, glass shower, new tile and fixtures. Also located on this level is a guest room with en suite bath and the laundry room.

The top floor features another primary bedroom or large guest room with a walk-in closet, high ceilings, charming dormers and an en suite bathroom.

Add a two-car garage, a giant deck off the family room and plenty of storage space along with the fabulous Old Town location. This house is outstanding!

There will be an Art & Architecture opening reception this evening from 5 to 7 p.m. Be the first to visit this wonderful home filled with original artwork by award winning local artists, Lesley Clarke and Rosa Vera. Meet the artists and enjoy a glass of bubbly as you experience this amazing home. There are additional open houses on Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

---

**AT A GLANCE**

- **Address:** 1225 Roundhouse Ln., Alexandria, 22314
- **Neighborhood:** Old Town Village
- **Price:** $1,500,000
- **Square feet:** 2,771
- **Bedrooms:** 3
- **Bathrooms:** 3.5
- **Year built:** 1998
- **Contact:** Lisa Groover
  McEnearney Associates, Inc.
  LGroover@McEnearney.com
  LisaGroover.com
  703-919-4426
  703-549-9292
  109 S Pitt St, Alexandria, 22314
  McEnearney.com
Happy and healthy

How to improve your pet’s well-being
BY FAMILY FEATURES

The holiday season means fun and festivities for all, but getting wrapped up in all the excitement and celebrations can lead to forgetting about safety and precautions, especially for pets.

Consider these seven tips to help you spot potential hazards around the holidays and keep your pets healthy and happy.

1. Food for thought: Sweet treats and savory bites are treasured holiday pastimes for humans, but that can also mean things like chocolates, nuts and animal bones should be supervised carefully so your pets don’t ingest something toxic or harmful. Other human foods to put on the don’t-share list include garlic, onions and grapes. It’s also wise to keep your trash in a tightly sealed container or hidden somewhere your pet can’t access.

2. Keep calm and carry on: The holiday season brings people together for milestones and celebrations, but all the hoopla can be stressful for pets. From the loud music and new visitors, to kids running around or fireworks going off, some pets can become overwhelmed. To help keep your pets comfortable and calm, try turning on a TV or some soothing music in a quiet room away from the noises, or let them curl up on their favorite bed with a toy or treat to distract them. You can also try introducing a calming supplement that may help with normal stress, nervousness and hyperactivity during stressful situations.

3. Watch out for tree trimmings and poisonous plants: While poinsettias and festive fir trees are holiday classics, they can also be extremely hazardous to pets. It’s important to be careful about what you’re bringing inside your home. Many holiday plants like holly, lilies, amaryllis and even pine needles from trees can be toxic if ingested. If ingestion does occur, contact a pet poison hotline or your veterinarian. If it’s after hours or in the event of an emergency, find your nearest 24-hour emergency veterinary clinic.

4. Watch the weather: Changing temperatures and harsh conditions can wreak havoc on human skin, so it’s no surprise it can also affect pets’ skin and coats. You can try reducing their bathing frequency, keeping up with brushings and providing extra hydration to keep them feeling their best. Another way to keep your pet’s skin and coat healthy is to add supplements that contain essential fatty acids. A fish oil, like Zesty Paws Wild Alaskan Salmon Oil, provides omega-3s for dogs to help nourish their skin and coats.

5. Stick to a routine: Pets thrive on routines for feeding, potty breaks and exercise, so be conscious of how your holiday plans may shake things up. Try to stick to your regular schedule as closely as possible or consider asking a friend or relative to help if you’ll be away during regular feeding or outdoor break times.

6. Spend some quality time: In addition to providing companionship and love, spending time with pets can also reduce stress, anxiety and depression; ease loneliness; and encourage exercise and playfulness. Even though you may be traveling or partying with friends, be sure to spend some quality time with your furry family members this holiday season, too.

7. Give them gifts: Humans aren’t the only ones who love to get gifts. Few things beat the look on dog’s faces when you pull out a new toy or treat for them to enjoy. Whether it’s a new leash, ball or cozy bed, be sure you have a little something to give your furry family members this holiday season as well.

To help keep your pets comfortable and calm, try turning on a TV or some soothing music in a quiet room away from loud noises.
ACPS  
FROM | 16

told him about a challenge she faced over the weekend.  
“I offered some support, said, ‘Go talk to your counselor and they’ll be able to better assist you than I can, but I’m always here willing to listen,’” Sandoval recalled. “Yes, I wear a uniform, and yes, I’m there to keep the children and staff safe ... but there’s also the relationship we have with the children, and that’s been very rewarding.”

The SROs were defunded in summer 2021 and reinstated in October 2021 when school officials advocated for the return following various violent incidents. The SRO program is funded through June 2023, and proposed plans for what happens to SROs after that will be presented to the School Board by the School Law Enforcement Partnership advisory group in December.

Panelists also answered audience questions, one of which was about gang awareness and collaboration between the gang task force and ACPS. Percy White, the city’s gang prevention coordinator, said that “crews,” which are similar to gangs in terms of criminal behaviors without the official title, are prevalent in Alexandria.

“We work and are in contact with folks up at the high school, and have collaboration and talk about certain concerns they may have regarding students. We work closely with them,” White said, but did not specify how exactly the two collaborate.

Mackey suggested offering more community training to raise gang awareness in city parent groups and youth groups.

Another question inquired about the number of APD officers and non-APD security personnel at certain schools. Sandoval said that there is one APD police officer at George Washington Middle School, one at Francis Hammond, one at Minnie Howard and two at ACHS.

Contreras clarified that ACPS utilizes “detail officers,” paid for by ACPS, who handle traffic matters and traverse from school to school, depending on where they’re needed. Detail officers remain on the exterior of the building, while SROs interact with those mostly inside the building.

He also stated that ACPS does not provide specific details or information regarding how many school security officers are placed at each building. Kay-Wyatt echoed this sentiment.

“Please understand ... that if it seems we may not be providing a direct answer or response to you, it is part of our safety posture that we do not want that information out because it is every step that we take to protect our schools,” Kay-Wyatt said. “… That information can make our schools very vulnerable, so we will do what we need to do to protect our schools, and sometimes that means holding onto that information so it doesn’t fall into the wrong hands.”

The discussion also touched on the possibility of metal detectors, which Contreras said is on the table but not set in stone; the status of walk audit reports, which Carroll said are available on the city’s website, and those that are not completed yet will be done before summer 2023; and the student to guidance counselor ratio, which Jackson said is currently unavailable but within the standards of quality requirement.

When asked how the school system is doing this year compared to last year, Contreras said that August through September were “at a lesser pace than last year as far as overall incidents.” Kay-Wyatt said that ACPS is always working to notify parents about specific incidents that occur on school grounds through ACPS’ communications platform ParentSquare, which translates messages in various languages.

“We are managing what may be happening at the school, we do have our communications team who is working to get that communication out to parents,” Kay-Wyatt said. “... Sometimes it will take a few minutes. Why you might drive by and see something happening [is because] we need to get to the principal and that staff, but the principal and that staff is focused on safety first. So, as quickly as possible, we will try to get that communication out.”

-oanderson@alextimes.com

Supporting Healthy Youth and Healthy Families: Celebrating Safely
As fall begins and homecoming approaches, SAPCA encourages parents and teens to celebrate safely and substance-free and to know the legal consequences related to underage drinking.

Parents and Caregivers: It is against the law to provide alcohol to any persons under the age of 21. Don’t be a party to teenage drinking.

Support our youth to be happy, healthy, and substance-free by making your values clear about substance use -- particularly underage use of substances -- with your children and other parents, and pledge to keep celebrations for youth substance-free.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION COALITION OF ALEXANDRIA

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ACPS does not provide specific details or information regarding how many school security officers are placed at each building.

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Weekly Words

ACROSS
1 Diamond blemish
2 Get the ball rolling
3 Groups of actors
4 Part of an archipelago
5 Get the ball rolling
10 Payment option
15 Payment option
19 Diamond blemish
20 Communion bread
21 Whales fond of beach rubbing
22 "Beetle Bailey" dog
23 Online leader of monks?
26 Minor deviation
27 Reason to open a window
28 Quran chapter part
29 Dwindle
30 Explosive letters
31 Sunken treasure sites
32 Division for the 49ers
36 Fancy boat
39 *Beetle-shaped war ornament?
42 "when will u be here?"
43 Searches thoroughly
45 Handed over
49 Noodles thinner than udon
51 Fiona Apple’s vocal range
52 Place for scrubs?
53 Cardinal or wine
56 Cookie made with coconut, maybe
58 Bollywood language
60 "Cold Cold Heart" author Hoag
61 Meat in Irish stew
62 *Most amazing routine practice?
66 Stubborn animal
68 Tiny amount
69 Vase on a pedestal
70 Groups of actors
71 "This is fun!"
72 7,488, for Tina Thompson’s WNBA career (Abbr.)
73 7,488, for Tina Thompson’s WNBA career (Abbr.)
74 *Online leader of monks?
75 Little whoppers
76 Pre-Christmas period
78 Quran chapter part
79 Dwindle
80 Lennon whose mother is Yoko Ono
81 "Termination Shock" author Stephens
82 Bumpy croaker
83 Worry beads?
84 Prefix for "correct"
85 Send in, as a payment
86 Pre-Christmas period
87 Make a cameo
88 "Right you are!"
89 Frozen, fruity dessert
90 " unions"
91 Sentimental feeling
92 " That was a mistake!"
93 Fair-weather friends
94 Requested earnestly
95 Sign of spiders
96 Western necktie
97 "Country founded by conspirators?"
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DOWN
1 Little whoppers
2 Future J.D.’s hurdle
3 Jessica of "Honey"
4 Lennon whose mother is Yoko Ono
5 "Ratatouille” rat
6 Vanities affairs?
7 Sometime in the future
8 Bumped into
9 Tug-of-war need
10 Grand-scale movie
11 Squeeze (out)
12 Not warranted
13 Cookers with baskets
14 Big bird that can’t fly
15 Run out of the country?
16 Neigh sayer
17 Apartment fees
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Weekly Words EIGHT-PACK ABS by Doug Burnikel and Zhouqin Burnikel, edited by David Steinberg

DEATH NOTICES

GWENDOLENE BEACHBOARD (97), formerly of Alexandria, Oct. 19, 2022
BARBARA EYRE (72), of Alexandria, Oct. 26, 2022
DOUGLAS FULLER (59), of Alexandria, Oct. 19, 2022
SUZANNE HESS (81), of Alexandria, Oct. 18, 2022
JOYCE TAYLOR (96), of Alexandria, Oct. 15, 2022

Solutions from last week

GWENDOLENE BEACHBOARD, formerly of Alexandria, Oct. 19, 2022
BARBARA EYRE, (72), of Alexandria, Oct. 26, 2022
DOUGLAS FULLER (59), of Alexandria, Oct. 19, 2022
SUZANNE HESS (81), of Alexandria, Oct. 18, 2022
JOYCE TAYLOR (96), of Alexandria, Oct. 15, 2022
Enough said

BY MARK EATON

Last week, on Oct. 28, Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R-Va.) said, according to The Washington Post:

“Speaker Pelosi’s husband had a break-in last night in the house and he was assaulted. There’s no room for violence anywhere, but we’re going to send her back to be with him in California.”

Youngkin’s statement about last week’s brutal home invasion and attack on Paul Pelosi, who was severely injured, reminded me of what my father would tell me on the numerous occasions when I said something inappropriate: “Mark, it would have cost you nothing not to say that.”

The governor’s reaction illustrates what troubles the nation’s politics: even a horrible event involving someone indirectly connected to politics – in this case Paul Pelosi – presents an opportunity for a partisan attack. It would have cost Youngkin nothing to end the second sentence after the word “anywhere,” except the possibility of an appeal to the more extreme elements of his base.

The sorry/not sorry statement reflects the political identity Youngkin has adopted as someone who is both ultra conservative and not extreme. His attempt to appeal to these different elements of the Republican party seems to have triggered a political reflex reaction. And, his response to the assault on Paul Pelosi was to attempt to score a political point in a context that made such an attempt cringe-worthy.

Lawyers talk about an exception overwhelming a general proposition or rule. In this instance, the exception, the clause beginning “but” in the second sentence, obscures the condemnation of violence that precedes it. The internal calculation must have been that the gains he would realize from using this occasion to express his distaste for Speaker Pelosi, would outweigh any losses he would sustain from people who would deem his condemnation of violence to be inauthentic or inappropriate.

Youngkin’s statement is also notable for what it does not contain: any expression of sympathy or compassion for Paul Pelosi or his family. Instead, he states the facts of the assault in the first sentence and jumps from a condemnation of violence to a political boast and prediction in the second sentence. According to The Washington Post, a spokesperson said later that Youngkin wishes Paul Pelosi “a full recovery and is keeping the Pelosi family in his prayers.”

The governor made his statement about the attack on Pelosi at a campaign event for a Republican candidate. The setting suggests that he may have been trying to energize the most militant Republicans.

Microphones and crowds can do strange things to politicians, and particularly to those who are trying to face two directions at once.

And, who among us has not said something acutely embarrassing that we wished we could have taken back later? Even if an expression of empathy or regret would antagonize his far-right-leaning base, he would be well-served by personally clarifying his statement, not through an aide or spokesperson, to express basic human compassion for Paul Pelosi and his family.

The governor’s statement recalls a story about advice given by late Senator Everett Dirksen to late Senator Howard Baker, who had just finished giving a very long speech: “Howard, occasionally you might enjoy the luxury of an unexpressed thought.”

He might have been thinking about his distaste, or his base’s distaste, for Speaker Pelosi, but Senator Dirksen and others might ask, “Why did he select this context in which to express it?”

The advantages of not saying absolutely everything that enters your mind are many, but they may not be immediately apparent. Youngkin’s statement shows that those advantages can include avoiding embarrassment and avoiding raising doubts about your decency and compassion.

Our governor is a significant political figure. Let’s hope that in the future he learns to distinguish between a hor-

To the editor:
The recently printed letter in last week’s edition of the Times, “ARISE program is flawed,” was itself flawed in its mischaracterizations of Alexandria’s universal basic income pilot study. Although a growing body of evidence already shows that putting money into the pockets of those who need it is an effective anti-poverty measure, many jurisdictions, including our own, are trying their hands at replicating that research locally – a commendable use of American Rescue Plan Act funds. The writer of the earlier letter casts aspersions on the pilot because applicants are “randomly selected.” In fact, applicants must meet household income criteria, or less than 50% area median income. This is how randomized controlled studies are conducted; the researchers will also be randomly selecting families who will not receive the funds in order to measure the program’s impacts.

In the book $2 Per Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America,’ social scientists Kathryn J. Edin of Johns Hopkins University and H. Luke Shaefer of the University of Michigan document the increasing number of Americans living in extreme poverty. They also show that, when Americans are able to obtain cash welfare, they use that money to create housing stability for themselves and their families – stability that helps them keep a steady job and to get off of welfare. The implication that no strings attached funds will be spent frivolously is not borne out by research.

The increase in extreme poverty in America is well-documented. Hopefully this basic income pilot will become a permanent investment in our community.

–Shira Eller and Jonathan Kral, Alexandria
An early civil rights petition

A wreath-laying ceremony will be held on Nov. 6 at Alexandria National Cemetery, located at 1450 Wilkes St. from 1 to 3 p.m. in honor of the troops who answered their county’s call to fight for freedom and paid the ultimate price.

Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863. Many people don’t realize that the Emancipation Proclamation also allowed African American men to enlist in the United States Army, and thousands took that opportunity. African American men who enlisted often faced discrimination, inferior supplies and officers who doubted their combat capabilities. In 1864, 443 soldiers signed a petition here in Alexandria, insisting they should be buried with their white counterparts in Alexandria National Cemetery.

At the time of the petition, African American soldiers who died in Alexandria were buried in the Contrabands or Freedmen’s Cemetery at the insistence of the Superintendent of Contrabands, Minister Albert Gladwin. The first soldier Gladwin buried at Freedmen’s was John Cooley on May 5, 1864. The majority of African American military combat casualties came in the July 30, 1864 Battle of the Crater, and many of the injured were brought from Petersburg to Alexandria. The 23rd U.S. Colored Infantry of Indiana, the only regiment recruited in Indiana, lost 33 soldiers in Alexandria, more than any other regiment of USCT. Gladwin continued to insist on burying African American soldiers at Freemens until Dec. 27, 1864. The petitioners felt that the new Soldier’s Cemetery, now Alexandria National Cemetery, where white soldiers were buried, was the proper place for their burial as well. The petition and insistence of African American soldiers in L’Ouverture hospital gained the support of JCG Lee, a white Union captain. Captain Lee wrote in a letter:

Mr. Gladwin, Superintendent of Freedmen at this place has caused the interment of colored soldiers be made at the contraband burying-ground. This ground is not owned by the U.S., is not fenced, …nor is it taken care of. Yesterday … while the hearse and the escort were proceeding to the military cemetery, Mr. Gladwin and a party of soldiers arrested my driver, took him from my hearse and drove it where they pleased.

The diary of Julia Wilbur, a nurse who volunteered in Alexandria for the majority of the war, is perhaps the most complete picture of life in our city during the Civil War. She corroborates Lee’s account and records multiple confrontations between Superintendent Gladwin and other military authorities over the burial of African American soldiers in Freedmen’s Cemetery, even after the signing of the petition on Dec. 27, 1864.

The signing of the petition meant that 118 African American soldiers had to be disinterred from Freedmen’s Cemetery and re-interred in Alexandria National Cemetery between Jan. 6 and 17, 1865 to rest alongside their comrades in arms. Of the 443 signatories to the L’Ouverture Petition, 23 are buried in Alexandria National Cemetery. Thanks to their standing up for their rights, more than 250 USCT are interred in the cemetery today.

OUT OF THE ATTIC

Weekly Poll

Last Week
How often do you dine outdoors when eating at a restaurant?

52% As often as I can.
21% Sometimes.
18% Rarely. It doesn’t matter much to me.
9% Never.

This Week
How did you celebrate Halloween this year?

A. By strolling up and down Lee Street.
B. By attending the Del Ray Halloween Parade.
C. Something else.
D. I didn’t celebrate this year.
NOVEMBER 6

OUTLANDISH TOUR AT THE APOTHECARY

Grab your friends for an Outlandish Tour of the Apothecary Museum. Learn about a few of the herbal medicines featured in Diana Gabaldon’s Outlander series of novels, from cascara to daucus seeds. The tour also touches on the role of apothecaries and women in medicine in the 18th century.

**Time:** 11 a.m. to noon
**Location:** 105 S. Fairfax St.
**Information:** https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail. aspx?si=47859

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NOVEMBER 10

LECTURE: “THE ‘CHINESE LADY’S’ PRESENCE IN D.C.”


**Time:** 11 a.m. to noon
**Location:** 201 S. Washington St.
**Information:** https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail. aspx?si=47887

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NOVEMBER 12

27TH ANNUAL ART ON THE AVENUE

festival held in Del Ray features more than 350 juried artists, from quilters to card-makers to cartographers, displaying their one-of-a-kind wares. Arrive with an appetite and grab a bite from more than 20 food vendors and set to the soundtrack of live music along the avenue.

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
**Location:** Mt. Vernon Ave.
**Information:** https://www.artontheavenue.org

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https://www.artontheavenue.org

FORT WARD TOUR IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY

The free 90-minute guided tour will teach attendees about Civil War veterans’ organizations, the history of Fort Ward, army life in the Civil War Defenses of Washington and the design and construction of Civil War forts. Highlights include the reconstructed Officers’ Hut and ceremonial entrance gate and the fully restored Northwest bastion.

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
**Location:** 4301 W. Braddock Rd.
**Information:** https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail. aspx?si=49214

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Classifieds


Hampton City Tax Sale. 14 Properties Offered. Simulcast Nov. 1 @ 10 am. Live or Online. 1 Franklin Street, Hampton, Virginia 23669, 804-709-1954 DudleyResources.com VAAF #1060

ATTN. AUCTIONEERS: Advertise your upcoming auctions statewide and in other states. Affordable Print and Digital Solutions reaching your target audiences. Call this paper or Landon Clark at Virginia Press Services 804-521-7576, landon@vpa.net

WEBWUFOO.COM FORMS/W1FUPE0E0QZ4WVI/ • Email written comments to the Clerk of the Board at: boardclerk@acps.k12.va.us • U.S. Mail: Clerk of the Board Alexandria City School Board 1340. Braddock Place Alexandria, VA 22314

Only comments related to the FY 2024-2033 CIP Budget will be heard at the public hearing. Requests to speak or to submit written comments must be submitted by Noon on November 13, 2022.

For more information, please contact the Clerk of the Board at 703-619-8316.

The Alexandria City School Board will hold a budget public hearing on the FY 2024-2033 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget during the Special Called School Board Meeting on November 14, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room located at 1340 Braddock Place in Alexandria.

Public comments regarding the FY 2024-2033 CIP Budget may be submitted in the following ways:
• Sign up to speak at the November 14th public hearing at: https://acps web.wufoo.com/forms/w1fupe0e0qz4wvi/
• Email written comments to the Clerk of the Board at: boardclerk@acps.k12.va.us
• U.S. Mail:
  Clerk of the Board
  Alexandria City School Board
  1340. Braddock Place
  Alexandria, VA 22314

For further information, contact Alicia Chase at alicia.chase@alexandriava.gov or make public comments on the day of the Public Hearing.

Any person who desires to protest the application and be a party to the matter must submit a signed and dated written request setting forth (1) a precise statement of the party’s interest and how the party could be aggrieved if the application was granted; (2) a full and clear statement of the facts that the person is prepared to provide by competent evidence; (3) a statement of the specific relief sought; (4) the name of the applicant and case number assigned to the application; and (5) a certification that a copy of the protest was sent to the applicant. The case number assigned to this application is MC2000545PS.

Written protests must be mailed to DMV Motor Carrier Services, Attn: Operating Authority, P.O. Box 27412, Richmond, VA 23269-0001 and must be postmarked on or before November 17, 2022.

Any protest filed with competent evidence will be carefully considered by DMV, however, DMV will have full discretion as to whether a hearing is warranted based on the merits of the protest filed.

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Residential window cleaning inside and out. Serving the local area for 35 years. Family owned and operated. (703) 356-4549. Licensed, Bonded, Insured. The Montgomery family thanks you for your interest.

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3 ABSOLUTE AUCTIONS.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Board of Architectural Review
LEGAL NOTICE OF
A PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held by the Board of Architectural Review on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, room 2400, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 on the following applications:

BAR #2022-00472 OHAD
Request for Certificate of Appropriateness for window replacement at 1020 Duke Street
Applicant: Marc Greenberg

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

Public comments will be received at the Public Hearing. The public may submit comments in advance to Lanning Blaser at lanning.blaser@alexandriava.gov or make public comments on the day of the Public Hearing.

For further information, call the Department of Planning & Zoning at 703.746.4666 or visit alexandriava.gov/documents

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The Alexandria City School Board will hold a budget public hearing on the FY 2024-2033 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget during the Special Called School Board Meeting on November 14, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room located at 1340 Braddock Place in Alexandria.

Public comments regarding the FY 2024-2033 CIP Budget may be submitted in the following ways:
• Sign up to speak at the November 14th public hearing at: https://acps web.wufoo.com/forms/w1fupe0e0qz4wvi/

PUBLICATION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Luxy Transit Services LLC, 3445 Berkeley St., Apt. 543, Alexandria, Virginia 22302 (mailing address: 1100 N. Fayette St., Apt. 1325, Alexandria, Virginia 22314), has filed an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity that would authorize:
1. Passenger transportation as a Common Carrier over Irregular Routes, providing service in the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park, and Winchester, Virginia, and the Counties of Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Loudoun, Madison, Orange, Prince William, Rappahannock, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren, Virginia and;
2. The transportation of Medicaid recipients throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia as a Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Carrier as defined in Section 46.2-2000 et seq. of the Code of Virginia.

Any person who desires to protest the application and be a party to the matter must submit a signed and dated written request setting forth (1) a precise statement of the party’s interest and how the party could be aggrieved if the application was granted; (2) a full and clear statement of the facts that the person is prepared to provide by competent evidence; (3) a statement of the specific relief sought; (4) the name of the applicant and case number assigned to the application; and (5) a certification that a copy of the protest was sent to the applicant. The case number assigned to this application is MC2000545PS.

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