Alexandria readies for 2023 General Assembly

Draft legislative package includes COVID-19 recovery, diverse housing requests

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

COVID-19 recovery efforts, economic development and compensation philosophies were just some of the topics discussed at City Council’s Tuesday legislative meeting as part of Alexandria’s proposed legislative package for the 2023 General Assembly Session.

Each session, the city works with state lawmakers to create the necessary legal framework, funding and authority in order to advocate for Alexandria’s budget and policy goals. The draft legislative package is the culmination of many proposals from City Council, staff, boards, commissions and members of the community.

This year, the final draft was crafted around the six key priorities City Council adopted in March, intended to create a cohesive framework for policy decisions in the upcoming fiscal year. These include providing diverse housing opportunities, recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting youth and families, fostering economic development, developing a compensation philosophy and defining the city’s community engagement approach.

Sarah Taylor, the city’s legislative

LESSONS FROM A YEAR TO REMEMBER

ACHS volleyball players reflect on 32-2 season

BY MARK EATON

The streamers and confetti have been swept up and the cheers are receding from the Alexandria City High School varsity volleyball team’s Nov. 19 Virginia state championship win.

But for players like Milan Rex and Chloe Wilmot, and first-year Varsity Head Coach Danielle Thorne, the successful season has left them with fond memories and a sense of accomplishment that will last much longer. The Times spoke with several players about their 32-2 season – from how they prepared to how they’ve grown to what they’ve taken away.

On Dec. 9, the Virginia All-State teams were announced. Rex was named Virginia Player of the Year, Wilmot was named to the All-State First Team and Thorne was named Coach of the Year. Rex, the Occoquan Region Player of the Year and MaxPreps Virginia Player of the Year, and Wilmot, First Team All-Occoquan Region, were the only returning starters on an inexperienced squad that returned only four players from last year’s team.

“I think it [the season] was a huge accomplishment just because a lot of us did not expect it to happen,” Rex said. “We just kind of played carefree and … built up that mental toughness during the season which showed when we matured emotionally, as players, off the court more than we did on the court.”

Growing the team

According to Wilmot, the team’s mental fortitude increased as the season progressed.

“Our mental and emotional toughness just grew tremendously and as we got farther into the season we were always playing as the underdogs. No
Timeless elegance and panoramic vistas from this classic brick four square perched majestically in the shadow of the Masonic Temple! Sited on the corner of Highland and King St- this landmark home has been brought back to life by Bluestone Builders in collaboration with ThompsonMoran Design team. This approx. 3,400 sq ft residence is the epitome of classic: showcasing quality custom finishes and true craftsmanship the home has been taken down to the studs, the floor plan reconfigured, the basement dug out and the 3rd upper level finished! The home has 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths and is ready for many more years of memories. Be it front door or backdoor guests all are welcomed by covered porches, a gracious front entry foyer and a light filled home with an open floor plan, exposed brick wall and gourmet kitchen with soapstone center island! The main and upper level have 9 foot ceilings, transom windows above the doors, wide plank wire brushed white oak 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... or use the pocket doors between the family and living room for multi-funtional use or some quiet time! The dining room is thoughtfully located close to the kitchen and has a secondary entry. Tucked away off the hall is a main level powder room, beautiful french doors off Family room lead to the back porch over looking the National Airport & Amazon HQ2.

Fabulous renovation and expansion of a timeless four square located in the heart of Del Ray offering approx. 3,900 sq ft of custom quality finishes on three levels with garage! This home offers 5 bedrooms each with ensuite baths! Welcomed by a gracious front porch, open floor plan which is not only versatile but functional! New double hung windows flood the home with natural light, large entry foyer, open staircase, custom trim and mouldings, recessed lighting and plank oak floors throughout the main and upper levels. Spacious mudroom is conveniently located off the driveway adding easy access to the kitchen making unloading groceries & sports gear effortless. The family room addition has a gas fireplace, and french sliders to a spacious screened in porch creating expanded outdoor living space and access to a beautiful backyard & garage! The upper level has a primary suite with luxurious bath with double sinks, walk-in shower & soaking tub, 2 walk-in closets and is tucked away on the back of the home. Three additional bedrooms w en-suite baths, laundry room and a home office/den with full walk up stairs to floored attic for additional storage. The lower-level has a bedroom, full bath and large living area making the perfect in-law suite, au-pair suite or hangout space. Luxury living in the heart of Del Ray. A few blocks to “The Avenue” with weekend farmer’s market, cultural events & activities, restaurants, bike path, parks shopping and more.

Let me put my 34 years of experience to work for you!

Christine Garner (703) 587-4855
It’s not just my business, it’s my neighborhood.
For additional information & photos, go to: www.ChristineGarner.com
The Commonwealth Republican Women’s Club held a holiday celebration on Dec. 8 with members and several organizations it supports throughout the year.

Organizations in attendance included the Alexandria Firemen’s Foundation, the Alexandria Police Foundation, Frederick Douglass Foundation and Community Lodgings.

CRWC member Terry Hauser represented the National Federation of Republican Women while officiating the swearing in of CRWC’s 2023 officers Connie Cantrell, Catherine Vercaemert, Shirley Miles and Suzanne Morrison.

CRWC holds up the tenets of “God, family, and the support of conservative causes,” according to a news release, and is the local chapter of the Virginia Federation of Republican Women.

Contact Margaret Stevens, Times sales director, at mstevens@alextimes.com

Looking to work part-time, from home, with flexible hours?

The Alexandria Times seeks an organized, personable self-starter to join our award-winning sales team on a commission/retainer/bonus basis.

The ideal candidate would be willing to work at this at least 20 hours a week. Ideal for retirees, stay-at-home parents or people looking to add a part-time job.

Training, sales materials, and feedback will be provided.

Contact Margaret Stevens, Times sales director, at mstevens@alextimes.com

ADOPTABLE PET OF THE WEEK

Handsome Chance is hoping that he will have a new home for the holidays. This winsome, red-coated pup is all smiles all the time. He weighs about 60 pounds, but wants to diet after the new year. His world is full of things that make him happy, from playing with toys to socializing with people & pets. He’d love to meet you.

Meet Chance!
AlexandriaAnimals.org/Adopt-By-Appointment
703-746-4774

I’ll Be Home for Christmas

Diann Carlson
Realtor®
TTR Sotheby’s International Realty
dcarlson@ttrsi.com
“Because everyone needs a home.”
The Alexandria Harmonizers celebrated the holiday season with caroling on Monday evening in Old Town. About 25 Harmonizers donned Santa Claus hats and sang songs in front of the city’s brightly lit Christmas tree.

Harmonizers take Old Town

The Alexandria Harmonizers, a barbershop chorus based in the city, celebrated the holiday season with caroling on Monday evening in Old Town.

Under the direction of Artistic Director Joe Cerutti, about 25 Harmonizers donned Santa Claus hats and sang songs in front of the city’s brightly lit Christmas tree. The group started at Market Square at 7 p.m. and then roamed throughout King Street to the Fish Market, Mia’s and the alcove in front of Vola’s.

The Harmonizers caroled at each location; the setlist included classic holiday songs with a twist, like Jingle Bells, Carol of the Bells, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, Joy to the World and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

According to General Manager Susan Fitzpatrick, the Harmonizers will be out in the community more frequently as the group’s 75th anniversary approaches next year.

Community input sought on superintendent

The Alexandria School Board is requesting feedback from community members as it continues the search for a new permanent superintendent.

An online form for ACPS stakeholders – including students, staff and families – is available in English, Spanish, Amharic, Arabic and Dari through Dec. 21.

According to a news release, the School Board contracted executive search firm McPherson & Jacobson to assist in the search and selection process. The firm also developed and will manage the online survey.

McPherson & Jacobson provided a timeline for the superintendent search: In January 2023, the stakeholder report will be posted; on Feb. 2, 2023, applications will close; in March 2023, finalist interviews will take place; at the end of March 2023 the board will make its final decision for superintendent; and on July 1, 2023 the new superintendent will begin their tenure in Alexandria.
MASON HILL
7401 Windmill Court, Alexandria, VA 22307
Just Listed
$1,255,500 | 5 Beds | 3.5 Baths
Greg Doherty 703.408.5068
Greg.Doherty@cbmove.com

BELLE WOOD
4504 N. Jordan Ct., Alexandria, VA 22304
For Sale
$795,000 | 4 Beds | 2.5 Baths
Donan Wintermute 703.608.6868
DWintermute@cbmove.com

THE MEWS
7075 Kings Manor Dr., Alexandria, VA 22315
For Sale
$725,000 | 3 Beds | 3.5 Baths
Jennifer Molden 703.727.6189
Jennifer.Molden@cbmove.com

SPRINGFIELD
8513 Fairburn Drive, Springfield, VA 22152
Under Contract
$345,000 | 6 Beds | 2.5 Baths
Steve Deleyiannis 703.966.6062
SDeleyiannis@cbmove.com

ColdwellBankerHomes.com

Alexandria Office 310 King Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.518.8300
Director, said at council’s Tuesday meeting that staff received 63 legislative proposals. She noted that “all of them in some way, shape or form” are captured in the final draft package, either as a legislative principle or as a specifically enumerated legislative priority.

“It was done] with the idea that our legislative priorities and principles should be tied into our policy and budget priorities for the city,” Taylor said. “And creating that nexus ensures that what we are focusing on are things that are advancing your priorities and making sure those programs, those policies and those budget items get the support they need from Richmond.”

For instance, the first principle, or lens, of the city’s official 2023 statement is to identify and overcome intentional and unintentional barriers to the city’s systems and services. This includes many previous proposals that called for equity – from criminal justice reform to more diverse accessible modes of transportation to increasing healthcare access for all residents.

Another lens is providing equitable access to a healthy environment and taking proactive measures to mitigate and adapt to future climate change. This includes efforts to plan for and reduce urban and inland flooding, expand the city’s tree canopy and increase recycling.

Some draft principles were taken directly from the city’s six priorities, such as providing diverse opportunities in the community – which supports the local authority to plan, zone and enforce land use regulations without restricting zoning processes – and COVID-19 recovery. The latter includes an expansive list of goals, such as workforce development, promoting the well-being of residents, behavioral health supports and increasing the number of psychiatric beds available.

Another principle is to support youth and families in the community. The measure includes pieces like increasing funding for K-12 education, ensuring that schools are safe and free of health hazards, gun safety measures, marijuana protection and additional investment in the Virginia Preschool Initiative.

Some lenses are broader, such as fostering development in the community, which Taylor said works to create sustainable and equitable development, diversify revenue and allow greater investment in infrastructure. There is also the principle of developing and implementing a compensation philosophy, defining the city’s community engagement approach and providing core government services efficiently and accomplishing the city’s identified priorities.

Councilor Sarah Bagley called attention to the “amorphousness” of the principles and lenses concept, suggesting that some are clearer than others.

“Something I’m quite proud of is the priorities this council established. I think in doing so, we weren’t quite as intentional with the lenses concept,” Bagley said. “... Perhaps in our next retreat, we think about that: ‘What are these lenses intended to do, and if we know what their intentions are, should we think about maybe selecting new ones or refining them in some way?’”

When it comes to the enumerated priorities, Taylor noted that while there is some overlap between the broader principles, these bring focus to the community’s highest needs and largest concerns.

“These are really the very specific actionable items that will probably be individual bills or already [existing] individual bills that we are working on or that we intend to support in a significant way,” Taylor said.

Depending on the budget items, support might look like funding for some priorities and authority for others. For example, the first priority, recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, proposes legislation to provide Alexandria with the authority to establish a locally administered health department to “ensure the city’s investment in its public health system is focused on and responsive to the needs of all Alexandrians,” according to the draft.

“It’s something that’s actually been brought up several times in discussions of the way health departments are operating here in the Commonwealth, and it is something that was on our list to ask for authority to do,” Taylor said. “In asking for authority to do that, it really just begins the process for that evolution and that transition. It’s not something that happens overnight.”

Loudoun County and Prince William County have recently asked for similar legislation, and Arlington County and Fairfax County already have locally administered health departments.

City Councilor Canek Aguirre questioned what specifically this newfound authority would look like, to which Taylor responded that the city would contract with the Virginia Department of Health to provide services in the community. The department would remain funded by the state, but would give the city authority to spend that money as it sees fit.

“It gives us that additional flexibility on the things that are not mandated to do them in a way that is responsive to our community and is best fit for our community,” Taylor said.

Mayor Justin Wilson emphasized that the goal is to improve health service to the community, and would require many further discussions with the General Assembly. He also called attention to the change in state leadership over the years.

“In most administrations we’ve had a very good partnership with the state health department and they have provided us with a lot of authority, certainly involvement as it relates to the selection of the health director,” Wilson said. “Because of the nature of our subsidy and the relationship that we have with the department, a lot of that is something that has been extended as a courtesy, and not necessarily something that is required. So we are susceptible to leadership changes in Richmond ... so I think this opens up the conversation. There would obviously be a lot of dialogue required with Richmond to move in this direction.”

Requesting such authority would not require the city to utilize the authority, nor would it restrict the city to a time-frame for implementation.

Aguirre expressed support for the item, while also highlighting the importance of maintaining communication with the state to ensure a smooth transition.

“I think this is a step in the right direction. We definitely have to take our time to dot our i’s and cross our t’s and everything, but I’m excited for this,” Aguirre said.
Rare opportunity to purchase a home in the gorgeous Beverley Hills neighborhood under $1M! This 1940s renovated Tudor home, near the very popular “The Pit” park, offers an 8-minute commute to DCA and a 15-minute commute to Washington, DC, and is super convenient to Del Ray, Old Town, and National Landing. Appreciate the home’s historic heritage with arched doorways, a telephone niche, and storage in the eaves. This historic home offers maintenance free living with the 2021 renovation of the kitchen with Quartz countertops and GE Profile appliances, a 2021 renovation of the full bathroom, a slate roof, custom Pella windows, and a 2021 irrigation system. Bring in the New Year with a new home!
With the housing diversity priority, the city is specifically asking for an increase in funding for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund – in order to let localities more fully address important housing assistance programs, projects and homelessness prevention efforts – and eviction prevention efforts through legislation to reinstate the 14-day pay or quit notice and simplifying the Unlawful Detainer Form.

The third priority, supporting youth and families, includes specific requests to increase funding for the state’s childcare subsidy program and enact changes to increase participation of childcare providers in the program, as well as legislative efforts to better the outcomes for children in the child welfare system such as impacting reunification rates and reducing disproportionality and entries. The fourth, fostering economic development, requests legislation to preserve existing local authority and funding for localities and funding for flood protection, including expansion of the Virginia Coastal Resilience Technical Advisory Committee.

The fifth priority is to develop a compensation philosophy, which seeks legislation for the Alexandria Police Department and Alexandria Sheriff’s Department to more easily recruit and hire non-citizens on the path to citizenship, and restore full funding for the Cost of Competing Adjustment, which would ensure that school salaries remain competitive. Finally, the city identified the need to define its community engagement approach through a request for legislation for more electronic participation by members of public advisory bodies; for replacing the word “handicap” in Virginia Code with people-first language; and for removing the requirement that members of the Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission secure a $10,000 surety bond in order to serve on the commission.

“That’s what we’ve turned the laundry list into – something that big picture captures a lot of things that we believe in, a lot of things that we feel very strongly about, and then several specific items that we will work on in specific pieces of legislation in order to achieve these council priorities, affix those lenses of equity and environmental justice and transparency and accountability on the policies and budget efforts moving forward,” Taylor said.

On Nov. 18, Gov. Glenn Youngkin unveiled his “Make Virginia Home” Plan, which aims to “promote increasing the supply of attainable, affordable and accessible housing across the Commonwealth,” according to a news release.

The city’s draft legislative package includes a placeholder section in the diverse housing priority in reference to Youngkin’s new plan. Wilson suggested that this could be an opportunity to find common ground with the administration, such as Youngkin’s proposal to intentionally include housing in economic development and attraction efforts, as well as his proposal to prioritize state housing money for jurisdictions that adopt pro-growth land use policies.

He also disagreed with several state proposals, like repercussions for slow-moving permit approvals, but concluded that overall there are many chances to negotiate and work with the General Assembly.

“Bottom line is [that] I think there are some opportunities here, so I’m hopeful that both in the package, in advance of the session as well as during the session, we can seek those out and try to figure out how we can get some good legislation passed in the session. There will probably be some things we oppose but there might be some opportunities,” Wilson said.

Councilor Kirk McPike made a motion to receive the docket item, which Vice Mayor Amy Jackson seconded. The item is set for final passage at Saturday’s public hearing.

View the New Year’s Eve Dinner & New Year’s Day Brunch Menu — Book Your Reservation Today!
one was expecting us to win those games, much less win the state championship,” Wilmot said. “We were just playing to have fun and enjoying every moment of being there.”

Wilmot said that losing the third and fourth sets in the state tournament finals made the achievement of winning the fifth and deciding set more satisfying.

“It takes a lot of commitment and dedication to come to practice every day, and also focus,” Rex said. “You can’t just come to practice and hope to get better by going through the motions. You actually have to want to get better.”

Harder than it appears

High level competitive volleyball is very different from picnic or recreational volleyball. Wilmot and Rex are from families with competitive volleyball traditions. Wilmot said that most people do not realize how difficult high-level volleyball is.

“When you watch at a high level people make it look so easy, but it takes a lot of time,” she said.

Volley players rotate, or change positions, before each point. Wilmot and Rex had to know “everybody’s rotations, where they’re supposed to be on the court, not overlapping, and be able to tell people where to go and what to do when they don’t know,” Wilmot said, adding that a team can lose a point for a rotation error, or “being called out of rotation.”

Rex, a skilled offensive player, or hitter, is a setter on her club team. The setter positions the ball for offensive shots by hitters close to the net. Wilmot, the Titan setter, amassed a career record number of assists – the pass that leads to the point.

The team’s resilience was exemplified in the four epic matches it split with Fairfax County athletic powerhouse Robinson Secondary School. The Titans had lost twice to Robinson, including a loss in the ACHS gym which was packed with fans. They defeated Robinson in the Patriot District finals in four sets.

Team bonding

The team prioritized forming ties with each other both on and off the court.

“We created a really good bond off the court,” Wilmot said. “All the little things, getting food, the bus rides, hanging out before practice, all

PHOTO/ANNA JAEGER

Back from left to right: Assistant Coach Jessica Lacy, Amanda Smith, Aaliyah Goins, Josephine Damico-Lassman, Kalina Janevski, Julia Kelly, Rania Shuster, Manager Miekiah Buster, Annalie McCarthy, Bridie Wendling, Chloe Wilmot, Manager Aly Royster, Assistant Coach Eva Irwin, and Assistant Coach Jordan Cox. Front from left to right: Head Coach Danielle Thorne, Olivia McCarthy, Ellie Griffy, Casey Donahue, Zana Royster, Milan Rex, Alicia Randall, and Harper Travis.

inova.org/iah
those little things helped us gel." The team organized “families” composed of seven or eight players from the freshman, junior varsity and varsity teams to promote bonding.

“I think the girls on the team did a great job at managing their time outside of volleyball,” Rex added. Wilmot said that the volleyball team had one of the highest GPAs of all ACHS athletic teams.

Wilmot said that she would tell younger players to “ask questions and don’t be scared … there is a lot of nervousness and tentativeness” as players move up from the freshman and junior varsity teams.

**Leadership lessons**

According to Rex, playing with confidence is imperative.

“You’re not going to get anywhere if you’re scared of the ball or if you’re scared to get better,” Rex said, noting that the two losses to Robinson were “just a reason for us to get better.”

Rex said that her volleyball experience applies off the court.

“My leadership has jumped to another level. I feel like last year I was expected to be a leader but I had a lot of other people on the court who were leaders as well,” Rex said. “This year definitely took a lot more from us to be able to lead the team. [I was] able to work with other people and know their needs and know what you have to give up to better the team.”

“Both of them were really leaders in their play – they’ve always been leaders in their play – but emotionally they had to be another level of leader this year because we had a lot of young girls on the team,” Thorne said. “I was lucky because I did not have to call as many timeouts as maybe I would have. When disaster was striking you could see the two of them in the huddle calming everyone down. [It] was really lucky for me as a first-year varsity coach being able to trust two of the leaders on the team to help each other – they looked to each other when they needed things. They trust each other so much.”

**A coaching perspective**

Thorne coached the ACHS freshman team before moving up to varsity this year.

“This was my first year coaching [the varsity] and we did graduate nine people [from the previous year’s team],” she said. “Coming into the season everyone did have lower expectations of us. I really knew this was a good group of girls and I knew that we could do well.”

Thorne, a 2009 graduate of what was then T.C. Williams High School, also teaches mathematics at ACHS.

“I really enjoy working at the school and it’s nice to be able to see the girls throughout the day. Two of the girls are actually in my classes right now,” Thorne said. “It’s fun to see them in their academic setting versus the volleyball setting. I love being in the building and being able to coach here as well.”

The road ahead looks bright for both the players and coach. Rex and Wilmot plan to play volleyball in college. Rex has committed to the University of California at Santa Barbara and Wilmot has signed with Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

And Thorne, the Titan graduate, teacher and now state champion coach, looks forward to working with her next group of players.

-aboutalexandria@gmail.com
FLEXIBLE WORKSPACE IS CLOSER TO HOME ALEXANDRIA.

It’s our mission to help you find the best way of working possible. A way that reduces commuting, cuts emissions and helps you stay focused and productive. It’s why we built the world’s largest workspace network. Because we want you to enjoy a great day at work.

S A V E U P T O $1,000* at Spaces and across the IWG network

Powered by the IWG network

Office
Coworking
Virtual Office
Meeting Rooms
Membership plans

BOOK NOW

TALK TO US: +1 647-560-7019
VISIT US: regus.com/redeem

10% discount up to a maximum $1,000 on new product purchases in the USA. Full T&Cs available on regus.com/redeem
Celebrating the Joy of Christmas in every corner of Alexandria

**BEVERLY HILLS COMMUNITY UMC**
3512 Old Dominion Blvd, 22305
bevhillschurch.org

*Christmas Eve Service:*
Candlelight Lessons and Carols - 6:00PM

**SAINT JAMES UMC**
5200 Fillmore Ave, 22311
sjumc.net

*Christmas Eve Services:*
Family Candlelight Worship - 7:00PM
ZOOM Worship - 11:00PM

**DEL RAY UMC**
100 E. Windsor Ave, 22301
delrayumc.org

*Christmas Eve Service:*
Candlelight Worship - 7:00PM

**TRINITY UMC**
2911 Cameron Mills Rd, 22302
trinityalexandria.org

*Christmas Eve Services:*
Family Worship - 4:00PM
Traditional Candlelight Worship - 8:00PM

**FAIRLINGTON UMC**
3900 King Street, 22302
fairlingtonumc.org

*Christmas Eve Services:*
Candlelight Worship at 5:00PM and 10:45PM

**WASHINGTON STREET UMC**
109 S. Washington Street, 22314
wsumc.com

*Christmas Eve Service:*
Candlelight Worship - 5:30PM

**NEW LIFE INTERNATIONAL UMC**
845 N. Howard St, 22304
fb.com/sewforchrist

*Christmas Eve Service:*
Candlelight Worship - 6:30PM
COVID-19 surge part of triple virus threat

Whites are dying at higher rates, Latinos lower than their population percentage
BY DENISE DUNBAR

COVID-19 is surging in both Alexandria and throughout Virginia, though the official case count may be significantly underreported. Whites are dying at a higher rate relative to their overall percentage of the population than other demographic groups. Conversely, Latinos have a miniscule death rate in the past 13 weeks both statewide and locally despite contracting COVID-19 at a rate close to their proportion of the overall population.

Alexandria Health Director Dr. David Rose said the current undercount in reported cases may be because of expanded home testing.

“It is always the case with any surveillance there’s potentially an undercount for any reason,” Rose said. “We’re hearing the same sorts of things [about the uptick in COVID-19 cases and that many are unreported]. That’s why it’s important for people to get the booster as soon as possible as well as the flu booster. Getting a booster is a way of replenishing your immune response. It’s like recharging the battery in your vehicle.”

Rose said that the rise in reported COVID-19 cases in Alexandria coupled with the arrival of flu season and the Respiratory Syncytial Virus is straining the capacity of hospital resources in Northern Virginia.

“INOVA, on November 29th, put out a press release saying their emergency rooms are at capacity because of a triple virus [threat]. We are seeing an increase across all of those influenza-like illnesses: the flu, COVID-19 and RSV. Those are being seen across the state and region,” Rose said. “RSV is not a reportable illness at this time, but we are seeing impacts of all the respiratory illnesses across our system.”

In Alexandria, whites have accounted for five of the seven local COVID-19 deaths in the past 13 weeks, which is 71%, despite comprising 51.5% of the population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In the past 13 weeks, whites have contracted 49% of the COVID-19 cases in Alexandria for which there is an ethnic designation, according to the Virginia Department of Health website.

Statewide these numbers are both more stark and statistically more valid because of the higher numbers involved: Whites account for 60.3% of Virginia’s population, have contracted 65% of COVID-19 cases in the past 13 weeks – 193,076 out of 296,419 cases with a reported ethnic designation – but account for 86% of the 2,294 COVID-19 deaths in the last three months.

In contrast, there were no reported Latino deaths from COVID-19 in Alexandria in the past 13 weeks, while Latinos accounted for less than 1% of COVID-19 deaths statewide.

Blacks contracted COVID-19 at reported rates close to their percentage of the population both in Alexandria and statewide, but died at much lower rates during the past 13 weeks. Blacks comprise 21.6% of Alexandria’s population and have contracted 19% of the COVID-19 deaths statewide. Latinos account for 16.5% of the total population in Alexandria, and 10.2% statewide, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Latinos actually contracted COVID-19 at roughly their percentage of the population in Alexandria, with 17% of the cases in the last 13 weeks. They contracted 7% of the statewide cases in that timeframe.

Blacks comprise 21.6% of Alexandria’s population and have contracted 19% of the COVID-19 deaths statewide. Latinos account for 16.5% of the total population in Alexandria, and 10.2% statewide, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.
Giving on a budget

Shop local without breaking the bank
BY LOUISE KRAFFT

The holidays are fast approaching though there is still plenty of time to browse and shop. And there is not a more enchanting time of the year to do it as the storefronts are festooned with ornaments and ribbons. It is hard not to be in a holiday mood. The Times has gathered a few out of the many shops that are showcasing affordable gifts and listed them below. For the holiday stragglers who still need to pick something up, check back next week for our final Holiday Gift Guide all about last-minute gifts.

Imagine Artwear
Opening its doors in 1988, Imagine Artwear at 1124 King St. features a wide selection of contemporary American made crafts including clothing, jewelry and accessories in a variety of prices. From the Sardine Clothing Company of Philadelphia are upcycled “warm and cozy wool hats, individually made from recycled felted, wool sweaters. Each hat brim is lined with coordinating jersey knit for comfort and playful freestyle sewn images make each hat one of a kind,” according to the website.

Jewelry Artisan Christophe Poly creates collections using materials such as aluminum, brass, acrylic, leather and rubber, with the website stating that “each element enriches the design to create a perfect balance of oneness.”

Imagine also carries “Roo” pouches by Marcua in a variety of colors. Priced at $39, these little pouches include a top zip...
For the bicyclist in your life, Velocity Bicycle Cooperative at 2111 Mt. Vernon Ave. offers a gift certificate for a basic bike tune-up that includes adjustment of brakes, gears, headset, and crank/bb; laterally true wheels; lubricate cables and chain; wipe down frame for $75 plus parts. The shop also carries a variety of bike locks, bells and other accessories.

**Bashford & Pitt**
Bashford & Pitt features hand poured 100% soy wax candles, and each scent is inspired by a moment in history. Bashford & Pitt’s 1783 candle is a perfect gift for everyone on your list. It has a warm and inviting scent that’s ideal for enjoying all winter long. The 1783 scent is available in a glass vessel and a wood bowl. The shop is located at 504 Bashford Lane #3121.

**Le Vintage-The Old Town Wine Shop**
Looking for a nice bottle of wine at an affordable price, stop in at Le Vintage-The Old Town Wine Shop, 1218 King St. The shop carries 60 or so wine selections for under $20 and another 900 more for over $20. Sommelier-owner Ben Kuna’s wine & beer shop focuses solely on biodynamic, sustainable and natural producers. Wine tastings are held twice a week.

**Ten Thousand Villages**
Ten Thousand Villages has affordable items that make a difference in the world. The shop is brimming with organic clothing and jewelry, home décor, hand knotted rugs and specialty foods and beverages from more than 45 countries. Purchases and donations at Ten Thousand Villages directly impact the life and community of the craftsperson and artisans. One gift idea is The Giving Plate, which, according to the website, “belongs to everyone wherever it may go ... with each new sharing of its gift, the love and blessings grow, so fill...”
AFFORDABLE

The Giving Plate is hand-painted by artisans working with the fair trade partner Hebron Glass, specialists in ceramics and blown glass in the West Bank. The motorcyle and pizza-loving person in your life, will get revved up for the Motorcycle Pizza Cutter, which is handcrafted by artisans in India who are taught the skills to start their own independent businesses through Noah’s Ark International Workshops. The Ten Thousand Villages is located at 915 King St.

-louisekrafft@comcast.net
Here’s how to make your holidays happy
BY RHONDA WILLIAMS, LCSW

It’s the holiday season, with many people reporting feeling anxious and more stressed than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic, the economy, the world and local events are more front and center than ever before, thanks to the internet. The National Council for Mental Wellbeing summarizes the overall state of mental and physical wellness as greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has significantly intensified mental health.

Having happy holidays is not impossible, but we as humans often struggle with balance. Depending on our individual personalities, strengths and weaknesses, we can get off balance very quickly. So instead of teetering on the brink of exhaustion, anxiety or depression, there are simple steps that mental health experts continue to encourage that can help you and yours to enjoy a holiday season packed full with fun—not stress. As a mental health professional, I review the best practice guidelines and then try to make it as simple as possible for myself and others to benefit from. I share this acronym and remind myself of it as well. As the holiday season unfolds, prepare and focus on a quick balance check I call SHARE. When stress goes up, increase your SHARE.

**Spirit:** Set aside time to nurture your spirit. This might include a walk in the woods, a religious event, a quiet time of meditation, song or thankfulness. Whatever it is, do what nurtures your spirit.

**Health:** Keep health habits going; exercising, eating nutritious food and caring for yourself and others’ health and safety go a long way in helping the holiday season run smoothly.

**Attitude:** Activate an attitude of gratitude and grace for yourself and others. Holidays have many meanings and memories. Remember that people are coping with much more under the surface, so give grace to yourself and others and focus on the things to be thankful for.

SHARE the love this season

Set aside time to nurture your spirit. Keep healthy habits going by exercising, eating nutritious food and caring for yourself and others’ health.
Rest and relaxation: We require rest, relaxation and recreation for us to rejuvenate and refresh, so take that nap, sip that relaxing tea or cocoa, and get a good night’s rest so you can relax your way to renewal.

Emotions: Be aware of your emotions, and take time to recognize when you feel stressed, rushed or pressured. Slow down and do a quick balance self-check. Share your feelings with a trusted friend or therapist that can help you reset the positives. Self-kindness will help you and your friends and family to enjoy positive emotions through the holiday season. Keeping SHARE in mind is a simple way to SHARE the Joy!

The writer is supervisor of Older Adult Clinical Services at the Department of Community and Human Services.
Today’s kitchens are the heart of the home in more ways than one and perfect to decorate with an electric fireplace.

Electric fireplaces can add the warmth and charm a fireplace brings to almost any room without undergoing major renovations.

**Learn the hottest trend in fireplaces to warm up the home**

**BY BRANDPOINT**

In the past few years homes have become vital sanctuaries – places where you and your family want to feel comfortable, cozy and serene. Recent shifts in home design are responding to this need, while also reflecting a desire for beauty and luxury. As a result, fireplaces are seriously trending – not just for living rooms or bedrooms, but even kitchens and bathrooms.

Thanks to recent innovations such as easy-to-install electric fireplaces, you can add the warmth and charm a fireplace brings to almost any room without undergoing major renovations or having to worry about things like chimneys, piles of wood, screens or gas lines.

The sleek, contemporary features seen in these electric fireplaces add a warm glow and ambient light to any room. You can select features like driftwood log sets and a variety of finishes, plus whatever flame color options and fire bed materials and colors suit your mood and style.

**Time-honored luxury with a modern aesthetic**

While adding fireplaces to various rooms may be an emerging trend in contemporary home design – and a boon for home values – the idea has a long history, as homes once relied solely on fireplaces for heating every room. Today’s designs, however, offer the drama and visual interest of clean lines and modern style – while also being much more convenient and energy-efficient than traditional wood-burning fireplaces. Another great advantage? You can run your electric fireplace anytime you’d like to enjoy the beauty and ambience it provides, with or without heat, all year round.

**The heart of the home**

The kitchen is possibly the most crucial room in every home. Because kitchens needed fireplaces for cooking functions in olden days, it seems like a natural fit to add a fireplace here. Today’s kitchens are the heart of the home in more ways than one, especially with open plan home designs allowing plenty of space for the entire family and guests to gather around and cook meals together.

What better space to create a warm, cozy and decorative focal point with an electric fireplace? You could even use a three-sided style to connect a kitchen to dining or living areas, or use two units back-to-back to create a two-sided fireplace between any two rooms.
A personal spa
The bathroom has become a sought-after oasis in contemporary homes, inspiring spa-like features from heated floors or towel racks to deluxe standalone tubs that create an aura of comfort and luxury. Adding a bathroom fireplace is one more way to design the ultimate personal retreat. What could be more calming than relaxing in a hot bath by the light of a glowing fireplace?

Fortunately, today's electric fireplaces make this renovation easier than ever. While a few special safety precautions need to be taken for bathroom applications, following your product instructions and local code restrictions will ensure that your fireplace will be as safe as it is enchanting.

How electric fireplaces work
Electric fireplaces can supply light as well as being able to offer some heat, but the glow and warmth are created without an actual flame. With the press of a button, you can use a remote control to adjust both the “flame” and other effects, including the heat level, thermostat, timer, brightness, ember bed lights and accent lighting. Turn up the heat to take the chill off during wintry days, or turn the heat down and enjoy the fireplace just for its calming ambiance when the weather's warm.

Installation is easy
Whether you choose to hire a professional or completely DIY it, electrical fireplace installation is remarkably easy. With just a few tools, a well-placed, grounded electrical outlet and an electric fireplace, you can bring the comfort of a fireplace to any room in your home in a day.

Renovated Beverley Hills beauty
This stunning complete renovation in the heart of Beverley Hills by reputable local builder, Morris Construction, has incredible curb appeal and a charming front porch. Situated in a cul-de-sac, this spacious six-bedroom, five-bathroom home features custom woodwork and trim, oak hardwood flooring, designer tile and lighting, upgraded appliances and more! The welcoming foyer flows easily into a living room that has custom trim and gold sconces flanking a gas fireplace with herringbone marble surround. Just off this space is a dining room featuring a beautiful Crystorama chandelier. Nestled in the treetops, the screened porch has ample space for secondary living – complete with built-in speakers and access to a large deck. The gourmet kitchen features an oversized wood island in soft green with a farm sink, an incredible 48-inch range featuring double ovens, a large pantry and additional cabinetry for plenty of storage. An additional living room with a gas fireplace and convenient mudroom are also found on this level. Head upstairs to four bedrooms, three full baths and a spacious laundry room. The primary suite is flooded with light and very spacious, with plenty of room for a king bed and drawers plus a walk-in closet. You will love living in this treetop home in the heart of Beverley Hills. Extremely private backyard views with an oversized lot make you feel like you're in the mountains, yet you are just 15 minutes to D.C.
COVID

18% of all reported COVID-19 cases with an ethnic designation, while accounting for 11% of COVID-19 deaths during that time frame.

There were two reported deaths of people of Asian/Pacific Islander ethnicity in Alexandria during the last 13 weeks, or 29% of the seven total local COVID-19 deaths. This appears to be a statistical anomaly, as the Asian/Pacific Islander death rate statewide during the past 13 weeks is 2%, which is lower than that group’s 7.3% total percentage of Virginia’s population.

COVID-19 deaths continue to be overwhelmingly of older people, both in Alexandria and Virginia as a whole. In Alexandria, six of the seven recent deaths were of residents age 80 and older, with one death occurring in the age 40 to 49 category. Statewide, 50% of the 2,294 COVID-19 deaths in the last 13 weeks were of people age 80 and older, and fully 90% were of people age 60 and older. No one under age 30 has died of COVID-19 in Virginia in the last 13 weeks.

COVID-19 hospitalizations are also rising across the state. As of Tuesday, there were 746 current hospitalizations for COVID-19 in Virginia, according to the Virginia Department of Health website, with 82 patients currently in intensive care and 22 of those on ventilators.

Rose said Northern Virginia is also experiencing this increase in hospitalizations.

“Hospitalizations are going up but not to the levels seen earlier in the pandemic,” he said.

Rose emphasized that preventative measures remain the best way to avoid contracting COVID-19, along with the flu and RSV.

“We are really trying to get the public to see that prevention measures are still important. They work across all viruses. Masking, not going out while sick, make sure you’re washing your hands. All of those things we were pounding the drum for during covid, still apply, especially for the elderly,” Rose said.

-ddunbar@alextimes.com

COVID-19 hospitalizations are rising across the state of Virginia.

Obituary

Brad Jackson “Buck” Bradford

1953-2018

Brad Jackson, of Alexandria, Va., “would give you the shirt off his back.” He was a proud father of a son, beloved resident of Alexandria, savant of automotive style, design, modeling, judge of show-cars, community bicyclist and activist, Pontiac Northern High School Class President from 1972-75, civil rights and Vietnam war activist. Brad died from physical assault while working.

Brad was raised in Pontiac, Mich. by Mother Julia and Father Robert. The oldest of six brothers, he moved to Alexandria more than 20 years ago to build and maintain a relationship with his son. The son has completed a six year enlistment with the USMC, earned an honorable discharge and has started attending college.

The entire Jackson family thanks everyone who sponsored, hosted and attended the wake for Brad. There were free ties and Hot Wheel cars for all attending. Brad collected a number and we gave them as mementos. We are deeply moved by this community display of affection.

The entire Jackson family thanks the unnamed women, with child, who help apprehend the person who assaulted Brad. Also, we thank that friend of Brad’s who caused the internet social postings of the person who stood trial to come to the attention of the City of Arlington.

The family of Brad Jackson expresses our deep sorrow, compassion and bewilderment to the father, mother and brother of the person who stood trial for this crime.
Our View

We, not me

The recent surge of COVID-19 in Alexandria – as well as the region and nation – is real. We just don’t know exactly how real, because many people are testing at home at this point and not reporting their illness. Or they’re recovering without seeking medical help from what is a mild case of COVID-19 without testing to confirm.

It’s going to become more difficult to get a PCR test in the city when Alexandria’s quick and efficient Curative kiosks, which conducted thousands of tests during the past two years, close at the end of this month.

Alexandria Health Director Dr. David Rose said in today’s page 13 story, “COVID–19 surge part of triple virus threat,” that this surge combined with the flu – which started earlier this year than most – along with the currently unreportable RSV virus that has hospital emergency rooms overflowing and beds scarce.

Other factors in this surge include complacency and COVID burnout. We’re all “sick to death,” as the old saying goes, of COVID-19. We’re sick of masks, restrictions, canceled plans and lost productivity. In recent weeks, we have heard of people who refuse to test for COVID-19, even at home, when they have clear symptoms. Their logic is, “whether it’s COVID or not, I’ll stay home until I feel better and then go back to my routine.”

The trouble with this logic, and with the increasing refusal of many people to wear a mask in almost any situation, is that it puts others at risk. Instead of this focus on “me, Me, ME,” what we need is a good bit more “we” – regarding COVID-19 and a great many other things.

The data in the above mentioned story is sobering, largely because it confirms that the most vulnerable people in our society – the elderly – remain at great risk of dying if they contract COVID-19. Five seniors age 80 or older have died of COVID-19 in Alexandria in the last three months. Additionally, more than 1,100 “super seniors” have died throughout Virginia of COVID-19 in the past 13 weeks, according to the Virginia Department of Health website, out of 2,294 total COVID-19 deaths in that timeframe.

Those 2,294 souls represent more than one-tenth of the total deaths so far from COVID-19 in Virginia – a shocking number given that so many of us have resumed life pretty much as normal.

The other shocking finding from the last 13 weeks of COVID-19 data in Virginia is that 86% of those 2,294 deaths were of white, non-Hispanic residents. This is almost certainly linked to a refusal to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Freelance journalist Thompson Eskew showed the strong correlation between vaccination rates and improved COVID-19 outcomes in an article in the July 21 issue of the Times, “COVID-19 data trends surprise.”

If you’ve refused the vaccine to date, please reconsider. Think of the octogenarian next door, or your great Aunt Myrtle you’re about to see during the holidays or your immuno-compromised office mate – and get the vaccine. You’ll be protecting yourself, and, more importantly, those who depend on others for their protection.

It’s not too late to “give it a shot.”

Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson

Photo of the Week

The moon rising above city hall and Alexandria’s holiday tree.

Your Views

Greater disconnect?

To the editor:

Lest readers imagine that I am defending the city establishment, I should begin by noting that describing the dynamic isn’t defending it. Interim Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt’s column “Simply the Best” is not tone deaf to the headline grabbing violence in our schools. Instead, it is the answer her bosses on the elected School Board desire.

Parents sharing the Alexandria Times’ alarm about such topics sought election to the School Board, but lost, because Alexandria’s increasingly liberal electorate sees things the same way as the present incumbents and the interim superintendent echoing their perspective. They regard expulsions as “inequitable” because they fall disproportionately on minorities and talk of “gangs” – notwithstanding whether such talk might be accurate – as a “dog whistle” about immigrants.

Baby Boomers recall how our society went down this road before, with rollbacks of yesterday’s policies considered “inequitable” and the decades-long crime spike which ensued. Former President Bill Clinton in recent years has been forced to apologize for his role in reversing it because his successful formula proved “inequitable.” Since Bill Clinton’s presidency, a sorting has taken place among the electorate with both conservative and liberal locales becoming more so. Concerns such as violence in schools, which once would have moved Alexandria’s electorate, now play second fiddle to equity.

This attitudinal shift is not taking place in a vacuum, but is acted upon by some of the most powerful interests in society, sectors of business – e.g., finance, trade, tech and media – which have financialized a hyper-profitable business model facilitating productivity and holding down pay. Most of these business sectors’ local movers and shakers understand that Alexandria’s schools will produce enough well prepared students to meet business’ needs under its equity model, while business finds a place for the rest. This is why, while some parents are alarmed, local business has been mostly silent, signaling its assent.

-Dino Drudi,
Alexandria
My View | Heather Peeler

Celebrating home, generosity and neighbors

BY HEATHER PEELER

Happy holidays! Although the holiday season can feel rather hectic, I want to take time to reflect on what makes this time of year truly special. These days it’s almost impossible not to think about what home and generosity mean to us. Home is a place to gather, celebrate and feel safe. Generosity is a way for us to show how much we care.

Almost anyone you talk to in Alexandria knows that living here is getting more and more expensive. Basic needs and housing costs continue to rise. Unfortunately, hundreds of families in our community are facing evictions. Imagine receiving notice that you and your family must leave your home just when you are preparing to celebrate the holiday season. The loss of a home disrupts your employment, your children’s education and your overall health and well-being.

COVID-19 exposed the harsh truth about the inequities in our community. Low-wage workers, the people we rely on to keep our society running, are important members of our community. Alexandria’s guaranteed income project recognizes that poor people can’t be trusted with money. Other guaranteed income programs have proven that when low-income people have freedom and agency with their spending, they can afford more reliable transportation, childcare or employment credentials. Recipients also have better health and less stress.

Our community’s investment in guaranteed income means that the narrative is changing. It means that Alexandrians understand that poverty is a systemic failure, not a personal one. It means that we as a community understand that our neighbors who qualify for ARISE – households that make at or below 50% of the area median income – are important members of our community.

Alexandrians understand that “pulling yourself up by your bootstraps” can’t happen when you can’t afford boots despite working one or more jobs. If we want to see all Alexandrians flourish, we must address the drivers of systemic inequality. With ARISE, we are working together to change the system.

We’ve seen the data from other programs like this around the country, and the results are clear. We’re shedding the misguided thinking that poor people can’t be trusted with money. Other guaranteed income programs have proven that when low-income people have freedom and agency with their spending, they focus on household priorities that advance their family’s health and well-being. Recipients secure better jobs because they can afford more reliable transportation, childcare or employment credentials. Recipients also have better health and less stress.

Our community’s investment in our neighbors through the ARISE guaranteed income pilot is a true reflection of our giving spirit. I’m so grateful for the city’s willingness to trust and empower its community members, and I can’t wait to tell you more as ARISE participants begin receiving payments in February 2023 and have the opportunity to put this investment into action for their families.

Happy holidays, and thank you for your generous, giving spirit.

The writer is president and CEO of Act for Alexandria.

City Hall Watch

with Bill Rossello

Where’s the groundswell?

BY BILL ROSSELLO

People normally don’t agree to a solution unless they agree to the problem. Or to a new idea unless the benefits are clear. In a community like Alexandria, what should follow is a groundswell of support. Since the current City Council was sworn in January, a number of “solutions” and new ideas have been introduced to residents. But where has been the groundswell for them?

Let’s look at a few examples of solutions that seem to lack broad support across the city.

First is the $116 million Duke Street bus rapid transit project and its twin on Beauregard Street. These projects are intended to reduce travel time for bus riders, increase DASH use and reduce the volume of vehicles. While any city of our density should have quality transit services, the demand for bus service remains anemic.

On the Duke Street corridor, only about 1,500 people ride DASH and Metrobus on a typical weekday. City consultants conducted two community surveys to gauge the interest in this project. Alas, there was no groundswell of support from any income, race or age demographic along the corridor. Community leaders west of I-395 predict the same will be true on Beauregard.

A second example is the “zoning to reduce speed limits on arterial roads, including Beauregard, Van Dorn and West Braddock. The stated purpose was to make roads safer for vulnerable users, primarily pedestrians. But Alexandria is one of the nation’s safest cities for pedestrians, and most of our pedestrian crashes occur in Old Town where speed limits are already 25 mph. At a recent community meeting, the director of the transportation department said it was a project that doesn’t make sense.

And how about this third example: the recent decision to reduce speed limits on arterial roads, including Beauregard, Van Dorn and West Braddock. The stated purpose was to make roads safer for vulnerable users, primarily pedestrians. But Alexandria is one of the nation’s safest cities for pedestrians, and most of our pedestrian crashes occur in Old Town where speed limits are already 25 mph. At a recent community meeting, the director of the transportation department said it was a project that doesn’t make sense.

Our community’s investment in our neighbors through the ARISE guaranteed income pilot is a true reflection of our giving spirit. I’m so grateful for the city’s willingness to trust and empower its community members, and I can’t wait to tell you more as ARISE participants begin receiving payments in February 2023 and have the opportunity to put this investment into action for their families.

Happy holidays, and thank you for your generous, giving spirit.

The writer is a civic advocate, management consultant and long-time Alexandria resident.
Freedom House Museum: A treasure worth saving

In September 2021, Historic Alexandria won a Save America’s Treasures grant from the National Park Service. The museum, located at 1315 Duke St., joined the Bok Mountain Lake Sanctuary and Singing Tower in Florida, the National Building Museum in D.C.’s Architectural Toy Collection, and the Alaska Native Heritage Center and others as winners of the 2022 awards. The $500,000 grant will be used to support the exterior restoration of the museum building, which was once the Alexandria Slave Pen, and the offices of several slave traders, including the notorious slave-trading firm, Franklin and Armfield.

The overall preservation plan for the building includes re-pointing; repairing or replacing windows, doors, woodwork, and wood siding; improving the gutter and downspout system, and waterproofing the foundation. These steps will seal the building envelope, correcting and preventing further degradation. This work is prioritized based on a Historical Structure Report conducted by Smith Group in 2021 for Historic Alexandria.

“Through private and public investments, the Save America’s Treasures program supports community-based preservation and conservation work on some of our nation’s most important collections, artifacts, structures, and sites for the benefit of future generations,” NPS Director Chuck Sams said.

Save America’s Treasures, funded through the Historic Preservation Fund, provided $356 million to more than 1,326 projects between 1999 and 2020. Requiring a dollar-for-dollar private match, these grants have leveraged more than $500 million in private investment and contributed more than 16,000 jobs to local and state economies.

Historians nominated the Franklin and Armfield Office to the National Register in 1976 because it is one of the few surviving buildings through which the second middle passage took place. Significant archaeological work took place in the building complex in the 1980s as the owners redeveloped the property. Black Alexandrians advocated for the preservation of this space in a city whose identity was steeped in colonial history. Recently, researchers have amassed an incredible volume of sources – photos, maps, 3D laser scans, business records, abolitionist accounts – and research continues as connections are made throughout the network of the domestic slave trade sites and with scholars across the country.

The building was purchased in 1996 by the Northern Virginia Urban League and renovated in 2005 as an office, conference and programming space. A small, two-room basement exhibit known as the Freedom House Museum opened on Feb. 12, 2008 – President Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday – to interpret the site’s history as a slave pen. NVUL saw this as their gift to the City of Alexandria. The building was named Freedom House by an earlier occupant in 1988 in honor of Rev. Lewis Henry Bailey – a formerly enslaved person sold through the Alexandria Slave Pen.

On March 25, 2020, the City of Alexandria purchased 1315 Duke St. in “as is” condition with the clear understanding that the building would require extensive renovation to open as a museum. The Save America’s Treasures Grant is a big part of the more than $2.5 million needed to preserve this essential part of American history.

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

Weekly Poll

Did you attend any of the holiday events last Week?

49% Bah humbug! Not this year.
29% Yes, I attended one.
18% Yes, I attended multiple events.
4% I went to all of them!

This Week
Have you or anyone in your family contracted COVID-19, the flu or RSV in the past month?

A) I/we home tested positive for COVID.
B) I/we had a positive COVID PCR test.
C) I/we’ve had the flu.
D) I/we’ve had RSV.
E) Nope, healthy as a horse here!
Weekly Words

ACROSS
1 *Software theft
7 So-so poker hand
14 With 1-Across, secret plot
18 Baby's bodysuit
19 Panini bread
20 Vicinity
21 It always makes money
22 Yoga bend named for a snake
23 Read, as a QR code
24 *Get extra life from
25 Wise one
26 Parent honored in May
27 With 24-Across, yellow-green color
28 Nicholas and others (Abbr.)
29 Have a session
31 "___ the night before ..."
33 Airport close to JFK
35 Disability payment org.
36 Spots to pick up red or green dips
38 Youngest Haim sister
39 Boxer Muhammad
40 Letter before gamma
43 Lola who inspired Niecy Nash
44 Joyous syllables
45 Assert
46 Actress Waithe
48 *Overplay a role
49 Boxer Muhammad
50 Clarify in a patronizing way
52 With 48-Across, out-of-studio broadcast variety
53 Palindromic job
54 Legal claims
56 Volkswagen discontinued in 2022
58 Sinusitis doc
59 *Poker players' piles
61 Crypto's field
62 With 59-Across, details to "get down to"
63 "La ___ Bonita"
65 Pacifier
66 *As I see it ...
68 *Jazzy Fitzgerald
71 Comparison
72 With 68-Across, yellow-green color
73 *Get extra life from
74 "Wow, I should be going!"
75 *Overplay a role
76 *Perform a carol
77 North Pole boss
78 Lowly employee
79 "Are we there ___?"
80 Eeyore's creator
81 Twitter followers, informally
82 Atlas enlargement
83 Romulus' brother
84 Ones, tens, hundreds, etc.
85 ___ truly
86 Yummy
87 Bits of sugar or salt
88 "Secret" way to order a burger at In-N-Out
89 "Gemini Man" director Lee
91 College sr.'s test
92 Fawns' dads
93 Look for clams
94 Noted loch
95 Biceps exercises
96 Hampering
97 Creative pursuits
98 Actress Waithe
99 Painter Matisse
100 Dine at home
101 "Hi___ graphics"
102 "Not interested"
103 Ko Jin-young's sports org.
104 Acorn producer
105 "Drops of joy"
106 "Are we there ___?"
107 Nameless people?
108 "Wow, I should be going!"
109 Burn through your supply
110 Big smile
111 Bars to heaven
112 Barriers to heaven
113 It always makes money
114 *Perform a carol
115 Cnipn mice and others
116 With 122-Across, owning
117 With 24-Across, yellow-green color
118 "Look at the stars" ..."
119 North Pole boss
120 With 84-Across, yellow-green color
121 Enjoyed a couch
122 Prohibitions
123 Spring up
124 Romulus' garment
125 Yummy
126 Yummy
127 Yummy
128 Yummy
129 "Secret" way to order a burger at In-N-Out

DOWN
1 Rains hard
2 Atlas enlargement
3 Romulus' brother
4 Without changes
5 Hollywood industry
6 "Are we there ___?"
7 Some live in Lhasa
8 A civil one is uncivil
9 Michelle and Barack
10 Parents honored in June
11 Proton's particle
12 Insincere remark?
13 "I Am Shauna ___" (TV show)
14 Ones, tens, hundreds, etc.
15 Killer whales
16 Zeroses in on
17 North Pole boss
18 Baby's bodysuit
19 Language in Andorra
20 Kind of bagel or oil
21 It always makes money
22 Yoga bend named for a snake
23 Read, as a QR code
24 "Get extra life from"
25 Wise one
26 Parent honored in May
27 With 24-Across, yellow-green color
28 Nicholas and others (Abbr.)
29 Have a session
30 North Pole worker
31 "___ the night before ...
32 Holiday season task, and a theme hint (Note what the first letters of the starred clues' answers spell)
33 Airport close to JFK
34 ___ pal (female friend)
35 Disability payment org.
36 Spots to pick up red or green dips
38 Youngest Haim sister
39 Boxer Muhammad
40 Letter before gamma
43 Lola who inspired Niecy Nash
44 Joyous syllables
45 Assert
46 Actress Waithe
47 Creative pursuits
48 *Overplay a role
49 Boxer Muhammad
50 Clarify in a patronizing way
52 With 48-Across, out-of-studio broadcast variety
53 Palindromic job
54 Legal claims
56 Volkswagen discontinued in 2022
58 Sinusitis doc
59 *Poker players' piles
61 Crypto's field
62 With 59-Across, details to "get down to"
63 "La ___ Bonita"
65 Pacifier
66 *As I see it ...
68 *Jazzy Fitzgerald
71 Comparison
72 With 68-Across, yellow-green color
73 *Get extra life from
74 "Wow, I should be going!"
75 *Overplay a role
76 *Perform a carol
77 North Pole boss
78 Lowly employee
79 "Are we there ___?"
80 Eeyore's creator
81 Twitter followers, informally
82 Atlas enlargement
83 Romulus' brother
84 Ones, tens, hundreds, etc.
85 ___ truly
86 Yummy
87 Bits of sugar or salt
88 "Secret" way to order a burger at In-N-Out

Solutions from last week

DEATH NOTICES

MARY CAROLYN GAY (88), of Alexandria, Dec. 4, 2022
MARTHA MCLEOD JOHNSON (76), formerly of Alexandria, Dec. 10, 2022
WILLIAM EDWARD LINEWEAVER (87), of Alexandria, Dec. 6, 2022
SOMPHONE PHANTHAVONG (64), of Alexandria, Dec. 5, 2022
ALEXANDER PICARD (97), of Alexandria, Dec. 4, 2022
ROBERT QUAST (58), formerly of Alexandria, Dec. 5, 2022
LINDA DARLENE RIDENOUR (80), of Alexandria, Dec. 5, 2022

PAPER CHAIN by Chris Moss, edited by David Steinberg
PUBLIC HEARING, Second Reading and Final Passage of an Ordinance to amend and reordain Section 5-602(A) (COORDINATED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS CREATED, CONSISTENCY WITH MASTER PLAN, REQUIRED APPROVALS) of Article V (MIXED USE ZONES) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment hereof approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2022-00011 (Implementation Ordinance for Text Amendment No. 2022-00011 associated with 2424 Mill Road, 2403 Mandeville Lane approved by City Council on November 12, 2022).
COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA THAT:

1. The Planning Commission will meet on the following dates:
   - January 5, 2023
   - February 7, 2023
   - March 7, 2023
   - March 30, 2023
   - May 2, 2023
   - June 6, 2023
   - June 22, 2023

2. If any meeting needs to be continued, it will be continued on the first Thursday that is not a legal holiday. If the first Thursday is a legal holiday, then the hearing will be continued to the first Tuesday, that is not a legal holiday.

ADOPTED: December 6, 2022

NATHAN M. MACEK, CHAIR, PLANNING COMMISSION

LEGAL NOTICE

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022 - 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
301 KING STREET, ROOM 2400
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

Information about this Public Hearing may be obtained from the Department of Planning & Zoning, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: 703-746-4666 or on the City’s website at www.alexandriava.gov/dockets

Public comments will be received at the Public Hearing. The public may submit comments in advance to Molly Lambert at molly.lambert@alexandriava.gov or make public comments on the day of the Public Hearing.

LEGAL NOTICE

ACPS
Alexandria City Public Schools

NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF CONFIDENTIAL STUDENT TESTING RECORDS

Alexandria City Public Schools will purge student work samples from the Virginia Alternate Assessment Program (VAAP) from school years 2014-2015 through 2018-2019 for students in grades 3-12. If your child participated in VAAP in 2014-2019, you may collect this student work. To arrange for pick up, call 703-619-8032 with five business days advance notice. Files not picked up by February 3, 2023 will be destroyed.

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility on an existing building located at 511 Four Mile Road, Alexandria, Fairfax County, Virginia 22305. The modifications will consist of the installing and replacing antennas at varying heights not to exceed 162 feet on a 160 foot building (165 ft. measured to the highest appurtenance). Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 612200785 - TC EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or at (339) 234-2597.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Trust Bank, located at 5203 Franconia Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22310, is in possession of assets owned by the following decedent, Cynthia R. Baggett, who at the time of her death was domiciled outside of Virginia. In accordance with Va. Code Ann. § 64.2-609(A), Trust Bank hereby gives public notice of its intention to deliver the decedent’s assets to the Administrator of decedent’s estate, Hillary Berard, who has qualified as Administrator in accordance with the law of the decedent’s domicile. Delivery is to be made after the lapse of thirty (30) days from the completion of due publication of this notice, pursuant to the Code, once a week for four successive weeks.

Inquiries, including any notice of the appointment of a personal representative for decedent in Virginia or legal notice of any lien or encumbrance upon decedent’s assets, should be directed to Trust Bank at the address above.

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to modify an existing facility (new tip heights 96’ & 98’) on the building at 1320 Braddock Pl, Alexandria, VA (2021394). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) or 1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

JAVA DEVELOPER

Plexus Scientific Corporation needs Java (Software) Developer for Alexandria, VA office to develop & improve frontend & backend web applications. Related degree & experience required. Email resume: mackenzie.maczko@plexsci.com

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, old floor specialists Servicing local area 30 years Licensed, bonded & insured (301) 656-8180 We do not repair damaged floors

THE THREE BROTHERS

Professional Window Cleaning
Gutter Cleaning, Pressure Washing, Residential & Commercial

Marco T. Salazar
Ph. & Fax 703-590-2323
Cell 703-850-4255
P.O Box 2543
Woodbridge, VA 22195
Living, Loving, Listing Old Town

LAUREN BISHOP, REALTOR
202.361.5079 | LBishop@McEnearney.com
LaurenBishopHomes.com | Licensed in VA

FOR SALE | 500 DUKE STREET
Offered for $3,650,000

FOR SALE | 601 & 607 ORONOCO STREET
Offered for $4,995,000

UNDER CONTRACT | 117 N FAIRFAX STREET
Offered for $3,595,000

SOLD | 411 S LEE STREET
Sold for $1,365,000