The history of the Johnson Memorial Pool

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the 1952 dedication of Alexandria's Johnson Memorial Pool. Named in honor of two Black children who drowned in the Potomac River, the pool was an important gathering place and recreation amenity for Black residents in Alexandria and Northern Virginia.

According to newspaper accounts, the pool was at the intersection of North Payne and First Streets, near Parker-Gray High School which opened in 1950 at 1201 Madison St. The intersection where the pool was built no longer exists; North Payne Street now stops at Wythe Street.

Thus, the physical evidence of the Johnson Memorial Pool – the first swimming pool in Northern Virginia intended for use by African Americans – is now gone.

The Memorial Pool at today's Charles Houston Recreation Center bears a 2010 plaque in memory of “… African American youth who perished in the Potomac and local creeks during segregation, when they were not permitted to use the city pool.”

The Johnson Memorial Pool is referred to briefly in the last sentence of the plaque commemorating the dedication of the Memorial Pool.

Another plaque at the Charles Houston center contains the names of nine swimmers between the ages of 8 and 16 who drowned while swimming unsupervised. The plaque was sponsored by Rabbi Sylvan Kamens and Rabbi Jack Riemer.

However, the understanding of who the Johnson brothers were or why the pool was important to the African American community or how it came to be built in Alexandria seems to be fading.

AWLA seeks home for senior dog pair

Sophie and Joey are 12-year-old sisters

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

Searching for some furry friends to add to the family this holiday season? You’re in luck.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is looking to find a home for two 12-year-old canine sisters named Sophie and Joey. After spending their lives with the same pet parent, the pair is currently seeking a new permanent home.

According to Gina Hardter, AWLA director of marketing and communications, their former owner was a devoted senior who “was no longer in a position where she was able to care for” Joey and Sophie. Her one wish was for the dogs, who had lived together their entire lives, not to be separated from each other.

The dogs, who are of mixed breed, arrived at the AWLA in early December, at which point staff checked them out to determine any medical complications. From the first day Joey and Sophie arrived, Hardter said they have been loving, sweet and friendly toward staff.

“One of our care techs was sitting on the floor with them and they were both cuddling up with her. You could tell it made them really comfortable,” Hardter said.

It was also apparent that the dogs depended on one another, which is not true for all dogs.
As 2022 comes to a close, we want to extend our appreciation for our friends, family, neighbors and clients who trusted us to help them buy, sell or both this year, or who passed along our names to others interested in making a move. We cherish each opportunity to help people find their new home, start a new chapter, and help to build and strengthen the community we love so much. We rely on referrals for a lot of our business and are so grateful for our clients and friends connecting us with folks they know who might be considering a change. The ultimate compliment!

We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and we look forward to seeing you in 2023.

Bonnie & Courtney Rivkin
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Police investigate suspicious death

The Alexandria Police Department is investigating a suspicious death that occurred early Wednesday morning in the 5500 Block of Ascot Court, according to a news release.

APD received an initial weapon violation call for service at approximately 5:35 a.m. According to OpenMHZ, an APD dispatcher can be heard saying at 5:36:52 that a caller reported “a male subject lying in front of the building” and said that “the caller is unsure if he is breathing.”

The dispatcher described the subject as a Hispanic male with a black coat, jeans and gray and white shoes.

At 5:40:51, the dispatcher said the caller also reported “possible bullet holes in the building and broken glass on the floor.”

Upon arriving on the scene, officers located a male inside a building with trauma to the upper body. EMS attempted life-saving efforts but the male was pronounced dead at the scene. According to the release, the death is related to a “shooting incident.”

The cause of the incident is still under investigation. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact APD Detective Stephen Riley at stephen.riley@alexandriava.gov.

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Hanukkah festival held

On Monday evening, Chabad Lubavitch of Alexandria-Arlington held a public menorah kindling ceremony at the Lyceum in Old Town.

Alexandria Police Chief Don Hayes lit the six-foot menorah and offered greetings to attendees. The event featured hot cocoa, hot potato pancakes and jelly doughnuts, the traditional foods of Hanukkah.

“It is a holiday that enriches our lives with the light of tradition,” Rabbi Mordechai Newman, director of Chabad Lubavitch of Alexandria-Arlington, said. “In ancient times our ancestors rededicated the temple in Jerusalem with the menorah. Today, we rededicate ourselves to making this world a better and brighter place.”

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Preparing for inclement weather

The City of Alexandria released information and resources about snow and ice removal, staying warm and preparing for storms.

When it comes to snow removal, the city clears snow from 561 lane miles of roadway, 20 miles of city-owned walkways and 44 acres of municipal parking lots or city-owned squares. Roads are plowed by priority; snow emergency routes come first, followed by secondary routes, intermediate routes and residential streets. Adjacent property owners are responsible for clearing sidewalks, driveways and entrances.

The city offers several warming centers to provide daytime relief from the cold for community members without access to shelter or heating. There are two overnight winter shelter services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness; the winter shelter at 2355-A Mill Road provides services to single adults and Carpenter’s Shelter, located at 930 N. Henry St., provides services to families.

Finally, residents are encouraged to prioritize staying safe. To do this, stay off the roads in the event of snow or ice, prepare an emergency kit, clear snow from around fire hydrants and drains, and take steps to prevent heating-related fires.

For more information, visit alexandriava.gov/Snow.

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Historic Alexandria wins NPS grant

The Office of Historic Alexandria recently won a $500,000 grant from the National Park Service that will aid in restoring the Freedom House Museum building.

The 2022 Save America’s Treasures grant was also awarded to several other organizations, including Bok Mountain Lake Sanctuary and Singing Tower in Florida, the National Building Museum in Washington D.C.’s architectural toy collection and the Alaska Native Heritage Center.

OHA plans to use the grant to help restore the exterior restoration of the museum building. This involves re-painting, repairing or replacing windows, doors, woodwork and wood siding, improving the gutter and downspout system and waterproofing the foundation in hopes of preserving the building and preventing degradation.

The Freedom House Museum, which used to be a slave pen, reopened in May with three floors of temporary exhibits.
the passage of time.

A devastating family tragedy

The Johnson Memorial Pool was named for brothers Lonnie and Leroy Johnson, ages 9 and 11, who drowned while swimming in the Potomac River on July 30, 1951. Contemporary accounts state that the boys attempted to construct a "boat" out of a cardboard box.

The carefully tended graves of Lonnie and Leroy Johnson can be seen today in the Oak-land Baptist Church cemetery.

The building process

The assumption that construction of the Johnson Memorial Pool was the sole and immediate result of an outpouring of empathy, or guilt, over the deaths of Lonnie and Leroy Johnson is not accurate. Alexandria's civic leaders were well aware of the dangers of unsupervised swimming in the Potomac River and Hunting Creek. The efforts to build a pool for Black residents began years before the Johnson brothers died in the Potomac.

The Johnson Memorial Pool opened on May 31, 1952. The Alexandria Gazette reported on May 29, 1952, that the pool was not only dedicated to the memory of Lonnie and Leroy Johnson but was also the first pool for Black Americans in Northern Virginia.

"They died on the day before Alexandria officials won an appeal to the NPA [National Production Authority] to get vital building materials to construct the pool. The government approval concluded a four-year effort by civic and professional groups to get a municipal pool for Negroes," the Gazette reported. "[The] major argument was that Negro residents were swimming unsupervised in the Potomac River because there were no other facilities in the Virginia area."

The National Production Authority was established in 1950 as part of the Department of Commerce to develop and promote the production and supply of materials and facilities necessary for national defense. The NPA was charged with ensuring that building and other vital materials were available for the prosecution of the Korean War.

"And back during the 1920s and 1930s, and really continuing on even further up from there, there were racist assumptions that Black Americans were dirtier than whites, that they were more likely to be infected by communicable diseases. And so, in part, the push for racial segregation and racial exclusion was for white swimmers to avoid being infected by the supposed "dirtiness" of black Americans," Wiltse said.

But he said that the "most crucial" cause for racial segregation was gender integration, as many whites didn’t want to allow Black men access to white women "at such an intimate..."
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The Memorial pool plaque.

The decades-long national underinvestment in municipal swimming pools in Black neighborhoods contributed to a historically disproportionally high percentage of Black children who cannot swim. According to a 2017 study conducted by the University of Memphis and the USA Swimming Foundation, 64% of Black children did not know how to swim. The study found that they were six times more likely to die in swimming pool accidents than white children.

Wiltse noted that swimming and swimming pools were an essential public amenity in the early and middle parts of the 20th century.

“The problem is that swimming pools today, municipal swimming pools today, are not nearly as high of a public priority as they were back in pretty much any time during the 20th century,” he said. “I mean, during the early 20th century, especially during the 1920s, ‘30s and ‘40s, that pools were a very high public priority.”

Lynnwood Campbell, a native Alexandrian, learned to swim at the Johnson Memorial Pool. He recalls that the pool was a popular gathering place in the Black community with extended evening hours for adult swimming. Campbell remembers water shows and similar events and that Black community members came from all over Northern Virginia to use the pool.

Retired Alexandria Circuit Court Judge Nolan Dawkins said that he walked from his home to the pool through a marshy area in the north end of the city. Dawkins describes himself as a marginally capable swimmer.

“At that time, every person of color learned to swim at the Johnson pool; I had many friends at the pool. The water shows at the pool were outstanding, first-class events,” Dawkins said.

Dedication of the pool

White and Black Alexandrians turned out for the dedication of the Johnson Memorial Pool. Henry Fowler, a city resident and the NPA Administrator, was the principal speaker. Fowler was chairman of the Recreation Committee of the city’s Community Welfare Council and among the group who appeared before the NPA before he became the authority’s Administrator to advocate for the allocation of critical materials to build the pool.


“It is fitting that we should dedicate this pool today. It is a symbol of our advance towards the equality of civic opportunity the Negroes of our nation are entitled to receive if we observe the Constitution and the Christian tradition which are

SEE POOL

Obituary

Gloria L. Davidson

Gloria L. Davidson, 94, a librarian and longtime Washington, D.C., area resident, passed away on Nov. 25 after a period of illness. Davidson worked for Alexandria City Public Schools for 25 years, retiring in 1992 as the director of library media services at the former T.C. Williams High School, now known as Alexandria City High School. She also lived in Alexandria, a community she loved, for many years before retiring.

Davidson graduated from the University of Maryland with a bachelor of arts degree in library science and master's degrees in education and library science. While a university student, she was elected to several national honor societies. Throughout her professional career, Davidson served in many leadership roles, including president of the Virginia Educational Media Association, board member for the American Association of School Librarians and for the Association for Educational Communication and Technology, and as commissioner for the Virginia Governor's Education Block Grant Advisory Committee. She received numerous professional commendations including Outstanding Media Educator of the Year. She also actively participated in community service efforts through her membership in the Northern Virginia chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, the Beta Alpha chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma and the Alexandria chapter of Soroptimist International.

Davidson will be laid to rest on Jan. 11, 2023, at Arlington National Cemetery along with her late husband, Retired Air Force Chief Master Sergeant William (“Bill”) Davidson, Jr. A memorial service will be held on Feb. 27, 2023, at Sargent Memorial Presbyterian Church where Davidson was a longtime member. She is survived by a son, Michael (Renee), three grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild as well as a host of other family, friends and countless former students and younger professionals she influenced over the years. In addition to her first husband, Bill, she is predeceased by her second husband, Dr. Thomas A. Hart, her parents and six siblings with whom she was raised in Indiana, Miss.

Davidson lived a life full of purpose but also made time for fun and travel. She was very proud of the role she played in helping to make T.C. Williams High School a place where students of all races could learn and flourish. She was a firm believer that education was the great equalizer for those who embraced it. In furtherance of her mission to see that students are provided with the tools they need to succeed, Davidson established the Gloria Davidson Endowed Fellowship at the University of Maryland-College Park. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the fellowship by sending payment to the University of Maryland-College Park Foundation, 4603 Calvert Rd., College Park, Md. 20740 or by calling 301-955-1265. Burial services are entrusted to McGuire Funeral Services in Washington.
our greatest American heritage – your heritage and mine," Fowler said.

Dr. Oswald Durant, Chairman of the Recreation Advisory Committee for the pool, served as master of ceremonies. According to the Gazette, he “... hailed the completion of the pool as a thing the whole community had wanted – both Negro and white.”

Morris Johnson, the mother of Lonnie and Leroy Johnson, also spoke at the dedication. The Gazette reported that she “thanked city officials and civic groups who worked for over four years to get a pool so Negro residents could swim in a safe and supervised place.”

“If their sudden departure has hastened the day of its [the pool’s] operation, the bestowed shall not have been in vain; but their lives and service [have] become a benediction to man,” Morris Johnson said of the death of her sons. “My husband and I feel very humble in accepting this peculiar honor. We pray that the parents of Alexandria will profit by our loss, our sorrow and sacrifice, and that the gratitude of our youth to the recreation department will be expressed in terms, not dollars and cents, but in modest conduct and Christian character.”

In saying that “the bestowed shall not have been in vain,” Johnson may be referring to a Bible verse: 1 Corinthians 15:10: But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Legacy of the Johnson Memorial Pool

How should the Johnson Memorial Pool be remembered? A positive perspective might be that Alexandria came together in the aftermath of a terrible tragedy to partially equalize the city’s public facilities and reduce the probability of unsupervised swimming deaths in nearby natural waterways. A different view is that the pool was one more government effort to maintain the pernicious system of segregation. These assessments are not mutually exclusive; each may be accurate.

Chief Justice Earl Warren, writing for the Supreme Court majority in Brown v. Board of Education of 1954, said that “separate but equal” had “no place in public education” because “segregated schools were inherently unequal.” The Supreme Court and the Congress ultimately applied the same principle to other public accommodations, including swimming pools, and it is undoubtedly true of the Johnson Memorial Pool.

With the hindsight afforded by the 70 years since its dedication, the best remembrance of the Johnson Memorial Pool may be a few moments of quiet appreciation for the Alexandrians who worked for years to build the pool in a thoroughly segregated state and city – and to appreciate the grace and dignity shown by Mr. and Mrs. Morris Johnson after the loss of their sons.

~aboutalexandria@gmail.com
dogs that come to the shelter. In fact, Hardter noted that sometimes people bring in animals who have been living together for years and don’t particularly care whether or not they’re separated.

But Joey and Sophie genuinely rely on one another for love and support, which Hardter attributed to much of the reason the pair is happy and comfortable in the shelter.

“Even on the first day they came to us, you could tell that they didn’t want to be apart, not even for a moment,” Elena Carver, AWLA’s veterinary and foster care manager, said. “But when they were together, they completely opened up. Suddenly this new place wasn’t as scary to them.”

Joey and Sophie have distinct personalities, Hardter said. At 60 lbs., Joey is slightly smaller. She has a fluffy coat, and in almost every photo dons a wide smile.

“She’s happy to be doing anything, honestly,” Hardter said. “She’s happy to be getting snacks, she’s happy to be going on walks and she’s definitely happy to hang out with Sophie.”

Sophie’s personality is calmer; she wears what Hardter refers to as a “stern big sister face.”

“It’s not that she’s a grumpy girl. She just has a very serious face and I think she has a similar personality. She enjoys the things Joey enjoys just as much, but I think she takes a step or two behind Joey, [who] definitely takes the lead on everything.”

Joey and Sophie’s breed is unclear, but Hardter said they’re likely a mix of some sort.

When it comes to the best place to house the two dogs, Hardter said that the ideal home would be big enough to fit two larger-sized dogs but does not need to be massive. Although the dogs love walks and have pep in their step, they’re not high energy, so they don’t need extra space to run around.

“They’re not looking for somebody who’s going to be taking them on hikes. So, it could be a smaller home than you might think for bigger dogs, because it’s not like they’re going to be running around your entire house,” Hardter said.

Additionally, because Joey and Sophie are gentle and have done well with everyone they’ve met so far, the type of people living in the home is flexible. Anything from adults only to kids of varying ages could suit the pups.

The AWLA does not know if Joey and Sophie have lived with other dogs or cats before, but would be able to provide guidance for future owners on how to introduce them to other animals.

Although it might seem like a large undertaking at first, there are advantages to adopting two dogs who already know and love one another.

Four years ago, former Alexandria resident Ginger Vallaster adopted two “paired” dogs. Her beloved labradoodle Henry had recently passed away, and Vallaster knew two things for certain: She wanted to eventually get a new dog, and she wanted to name it Tater.

Approximately one week after Henry had passed, Vallaster saw a photo of a pair of dogs that she felt instantly connected to, and she knew she had to adopt them.

“Joey and Sophie are the perfect pair,” Vallaster said. “They’re both sweet and gentle, and they love each other so much.”

Vallaster said that having two dogs has been a wonderful experience, and she would recommend it to anyone looking for a new companion.

“Having two dogs has given me twice as much love and support,” Vallaster said. “I feel like I’m not alone anymore.”

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later, Vallaster came across a Facebook post seeking adoption for two dogs named Sam and Tater. Upon hearing the latter name, she felt a sense of shock and shortly after, a sense of resolve.

“I just knew those were my dogs,” Vallaster said. “... They already named her Tater and I wanted to name my dog Tater.”

The adoption process was straightforward, she said. It started with a Zoom interview, in which Vallaster showed her house and back yard, and discussed finances and how often she was home.

Several days later, Vallaster was approved and took the dogs home. According to Vallaster, the adoption was a dream come true. Adopting two dogs at the same time offers several perks, such as the fact that they keep each other company when she leaves the house.

“The best part about adopting two is that they already love each other. There’s no acclimation period or worry that they’re not going to get along, or one’s going to bully the other or whatever,” Vallaster said. “It just made it easy that I knew they both adored each other. It made it a very simple process.”

Those interested in giving Sophie and Joey a forever home are encouraged to reach out to the AWLA. There are different possible avenues; for adoption inquiries, email adopt@alexandriaanimals.org and for fostering inquiries, email foster@alexandriaanimals.org.

“As soon as we hear from people, we are ready to answer any questions, see what we can set up, give you a chance to meet the girls and hopefully give them a chance to go home – whether that’s on a permanent basis, which would be wonderful, or even a temporary foster [home],” Hardter said.

As much love as the AWLA pours into caring for its animals, Hardter acknowledged that it’s not the same environment as a permanent home. Dedicated and consistent care is important for all dogs, but particularly older ones who have lost their owners.

She emphasized that the sisters have lived in a home environment their entire lives, don't need training and know about co-existing with other dogs.

“With senior pets, we always say they have years of best friend experience, and with Sophie and Joey that’s definitely double,” Hardter said.

The AWLA generally doesn’t have much trouble finding homes for kittens and puppies, but it’s more difficult to find homes for older, larger dogs. However, the organization is taking steps to give those animals an extra boost. For example, through the AWLA’s annual Home for the Pawlidays program, adoption fees for all adult animals are paid for by Priority Automotive through the end of December.

For Joey and Sophie, the future is currently uncertain, but Hardter has no doubt that they’ll find their perfect home soon.

“Alexandria is just such an amazing pet-loving community, and we think somebody has the space in their home and heart to make that happen,” Hardter said.

-oanderson@alextimes.com

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12:00 pm - Contemplative
2:00 pm & 4:00 pm - Family Services with Special Sermon Presentation & Nursery Care Available
6:00 pm & 10:00 pm - Festive Rite II with Choir and Candle Lighting Featuring the Barclay Brass Quintet

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Service
10:00 am* - Rite Two, with organ

Jan. 1 - First Sunday after Christmas
10:00 am* - Christmas Lessons & Carols

* This is the only service on this day.

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<tr>
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<td><strong>Christmas Eve Services:</strong> Family Candlelight Worship - 7:00PM ZOOM Worship - 11:00PM</td>
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Council approves legislative package

Discussion centers around fair housing
BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

City Council approved Alexandria’s proposed legislative package for the 2023 General Assembly during its Saturday public hearing. Among the main themes was a discussion surrounding council’s handling of affordable housing and rising rents in the city.

The city adopted six key priorities earlier this year to “provide a cohesive framework for the city’s budget and policy decisions” next fiscal year, one of which was to provide diverse housing opportunities.

With this priority outlined in the package, some goals are to protect the mixed-income characteristics of neighborhoods, expand affordable housing, and to allow local authority to enforce land use regulations without restricting the zoning process.

Meronne Teklu, a city resident who ran unsuccessfully for council last year, spoke on behalf of the Economic Opportunities Commission, Landlords Tenants Relations Board and the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee.

Citing a widespread concern for the rising rate in evictions, Teklu called for City Council’s support in working to mitigate the issue. She expressed support for some of the city’s legislative package, which includes reinstating the 14-day pay-or-quit notice, providing localities with authority to enforce the provisions of the Virginia Landlord and Tenant Act and advocating to simplify the detainer form and make it more accessible to citizens.

The city is also asking for an increase in funding for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund, which will help localities address housing assistance programs and homelessness prevention efforts.

But Teklu contended that even with the positive strides, more needs to be done.

“Evictions disrupt communities, create barriers to securing future housing, perpetuate poverty and homelessness, and can result in negative physical health and mental health,” Teklu said.

According to Teklu, this year there have been 873 eviction notices – a 172% increase from last year – and the city’s 2022 point-in-time count identified 120 people experiencing homelessness – a 13% increase from the 2021 PIT count.

Teklu shared several suggestions, including ensuring that defendants have equitable access to legal information right to counsel and requiring landlord notices and communication in languages other than English such as Amharic, Arabic and Spanish. Teklu requested that any communication around summary documents and tenancy be translated.

She also requested that the city require landlords to ensure that spaces are livable with no code violations before tenants sign the lease, and that if violations arise, tenants should be able to report that issue to the department of code administration and terminate the lease.

Finally, Teklu recommended limiting rental application fees to $50 per household with possible fines for violations, asserting that many landlords in the state tend to abuse the maximum application fee of $50 by charging per person.

“It is our hope that by protecting the rights of those most vulnerable in the community and implementing these potential measures of eviction prevention that we are able to decrease the number of homeless Alexandrians and reverse the potential displacement of the diverse communities that call Alexandria home,” Teklu said.

In response, Councilor Kirk McPike said Teklu brought up important points that were of major concern to the legislative subcommittee. He assured that council will continue to prioritize them.

“There are a number of bills that we supported in previous legislative sessions that address many of these items. We don’t have the ability to introduce legislation [ourselves], but hopefully we can keep this list close to our heart, and as we see bills coming into the General Assembly this session we can highlight them quickly,” McPike said.

Every year the city conducts an annual fair housing testing program to ensure that landlords are complying with housing laws. There is a different subject area of focus each year; examples include discrimination around family size, race or sexual orientation. However, staff does not announce in advance which areas will be pinpointed to preserve the integrity of the program.

Regarding Teklu’s claim that many landlords in Virginia abuse the application fee maximum, Chapman inquired about whether the city looks at application payment during the program. Brandi Collins, a representative from the Alexandria Office of Housing, said she did not know.

Collins said that the staff administers the program to uncover inequities or illegal activities, but she was not sure if they tested specifically for application fees and would check with staff at a future date.

While an eviction program with legal assistance is not currently part of the package, Councilor Alyia Gaskins requested a report on what it would take to create a program that provides tenants with the right to counsel.

Legislative Director Sarah Taylor said she would work with the city attorney’s office to complete a report, noting that such legislation could potentially be filed this session. A deeper discussion could help advise the path forward regarding evictions, Taylor said.

“I think that would be really helpful, because the power imbalance when you’re watching these cases is just really awful,” Gaskins said.

Gaskins also called attention to the city’s priority to simplify the unlawful detainer form and increase its accessibility through translating it to other languages. She questioned whether other forms or notices should also be translated, to which Taylor said the detainer form was specifically enumerated in conversations about equitable access.

Although there are forms related to the court system and forms related to tenants and landlords, the two are in different spaces and would thus require different requests. This would necessitate a discussion between the city and the delegation about possibly adding an enactment clause to existing legislation, Taylor said.

“I think we should prioritize the unlawful detainer form, but if there are opportunities to investigate other forms and how these things interact with one another, it would be really helpful for us to push on both sides,” Gaskins said.

Ultimately, City Council opted to approve the package as is with an agreement to at a future date hammer down final language regarding mental health and the current placeholder for the “Make Virginia Home Plan” of Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R-VA).

McPike made a motion to approve the legislative package, which Vice Mayor Amy Jackson seconded. The item passed unanimously.

Obituary
Carlton “Shady” Schelhorn

Carlton “Shady” Schelhorn, 91, of Mechanicsville, formerly of Alexandria, passed away on Dec. 14. He is survived by his devoted wife of 68 years, Pat; children, Chip Schelhorn (Julie), Lynn Michaux (Iody), Cathy D’Antuono (Steve), and Nancy Bennett (Mark); nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Shady was a 1955 University of Virginia graduate, where he played football and was a member of Phi Delta Theta. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army for 23 years, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Known for his incredible sense of humor and charm, Shady never met a stranger. He was always the loudest voice in the room, an excellent dancer and fond of martinis. His family was his greatest pride and joy; “G-Dad” was adored in return. Some of his favorite pastimes included golfing, especially with the Over The-Hill Hoos, spending winters in Marco Island, Fla. and lately watching “Grit” TV. The family received friends from 2 to 4 p.m. yesterday, at the Bennett Funeral Home, Mechanicsville Chapel located at 5014 Lee Davis Road, where a funeral service followed at 4 p.m. Interment will take place in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

WWW.ALEXTIMES.COM DECEMBER 22, 2022 | 11
It's not too late to finish holiday shopping

BY LOUISE KRAFFT

The holiday season is coming to a close, which means many people are rushing to pick up last-minute stocking stuffers or maybe even just getting started on their lists. Whatever camp you find yourself in, we've got you covered.

The Times has rounded up some gift ideas for the holiday straggler as we inch toward the end of the year. Whether you're looking for sweet treats or fun tchotchkes, there's something for everyone. Check out all our gift ideas below, and most importantly, have a wonderful holiday season!

**Boxwood**

Dreaming of a white Christmas, you might head over to Boxwood and pick up the 2023 Old Town Alexandria calendar created by artist Todd Healy. This year's cover features a snowy morning scene of the Spite House at Queen and N. Pitt Sts. This is the 42nd edition of the popular local calendar. The calendars are available exclusively at Boxwood located at 128 S. Royal St.

**Unwined**

If it is sweets you are looking for, drop in to Unwined. The shop has numerous chocolate gifts available, from local chocolatier Rob Kingsbury to Belgium's famed Neuhaus selections. Unwined also has reusable growlers and recyclable crowlers for your holiday sweet-treat life-savers!
heart's favorite ale. And for the travel and wine enthusiast or competitive gamer in your life, there are wine puzzles; maps include: Champagne, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, South Africa and California. Unwined is located at 3690 #J King St. in the Bradley Shopping Center and 1600 Belle View Blvd., in the Belle View Shopping Center.

Swing's Coffee
If you're looking for a perfect gift for a coffee lover, stop in at Swing's Coffee. Swing's features two coffee gift boxes this season. The Bold Blend Trio includes three premium blend coffees with dark, bold finishes. This trio includes the Diplomat, Embassy Row and the G Street Blends. The second trio, the Bright Blend Trio includes three premium blend coffees, all roasted to a medium-light finish. This gift box includes the Mesco, Java Mocha and High Mountain Blends. Swing's Coffee is located at 501 E. Monroe Ave. in Del Ray.

Spice & Tea Exchange
For the tea drinker and chef in your life, visit the Spice & Tea Exchange. Featuring a gourmet selection of exotic spices, sugars, salts and teas, the Spice & Tea Exchange paired up a few favorite products for grab-and-go gifts. The trio includes a luscious tea blend, an infused sugar, and a made-in-America, aromatic soy candle candle of matching flavors and scents. Various collection combinations include: Chocolate Candy Cane, Florida Sunshine, Blueberry Black, Chai & Bourbon. For the chef, an exclusive artisanal collection of 100% Extra Virgin Olive Oil that is cold-extracted from the olives harvested in Puglia, Italy and then fused with a variety of herbs and citrus. Fused oils produce flavors in their truest sense and are created by pressing ripe olives with fresh ingredients. Flavors include basil, chili pepper, leek, lemon, orange, oregano, truffle, and extra virgin olive oil. The Spice & Tea Exchange is located at 320 King St.

Greenstreet Gardens
The gift shop at Greenstreet Gardens is overflowing with baubles and gifts for just about everyone in your life. In addition to gifts to please your favorite gardener, the shop features lotions and body butters from Archipelago Botanicals, soy wax candles from Paddy Wax Apothecary and The Card Bureau, puzzles, holiday platters and accessories, Feridie’s World’s Best Peanuts & Specialty Foods, holiday wreaths, table centerpieces and poinsettias to name just a few. Greenstreet Gardens is located at 1721 Braddock Road at the intersection of King, Braddock and Quaker Lanes.

Wine Gallery 108
The Wine Gallery 108 is featuring a variety of holiday stocking stuffers. A five-pack of single serve port to taste your way through Portugal, a two bottle canvas carrier and a festive slate cheese & charcuterie board with chalk to write out all of your delightful selections. Pair with some gourmet treats and wine and your gift is complete. The Wine Gallery 108 is located at 108 N. St Asaph St.

Keenthings
Keenthings in studio 16 at the Torpedo Factory has a whimsical selection of tiny watercolors prints hand embelished and framed in recycled bottle caps created by local artist Lisa Schumaier that make

The Spice & Tea Exchange features an artisanal collection of 100% Extra Virgin Olive Oil that is cold-extracted from the olives harvested in Puglia, Italy.
perfect stocking stuffers for children of all ages.

Market Square Shop
“A Year to Remember” is the poignant inscription on this year’s limited edition of the enamel Halycon Days 2022 Christmas box at the Market Square Shop. The shop is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year and is stocked with a carefully curated selection of holiday ornaments and gifts. The Market Square Shop is located at 202 King St.

Gift certificates
Gift certificates are always a welcome gift. The Dishes of India, located at 1510A Belle View Blvd. in the Belle View Shopping Center, is offering a 15% bonus on their $50 & $100 gift certificates this year. If you’re looking for lighter fare, Fontaine Caffee & Creperie at 119 S. Royal St. also has gift certificates. And one cannot leave out the dogs! Barkhaus has physical and electronic gift cards that will be huge hits during the holidays. Guests can use these gift cards for entry, food, drinks, dog toys, dog menu items, apparel and more. Barkhaus is at 529 E. Howell Ave. in Del Ray.

-louisekrafft@comcast.net

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The Velocipedestriennes: Propelling women forward

BY GAYLE CONVERSE
AND PAT MILLER

One hundred thirty years ago, a relatively simple invention was widely believed to render women “unfit for motherhood,” yet the device offered Alexandria women freedom. Today, it continues to liberate women around the world.

Certainly not a kitchen or laundry appliance, this was a device originally designed for men. It was the velocipede – the common bicycle.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the self-propelled, inexpensive wheeled object would be instrumental in reshaping the lives of female riders, known as “velocipedestriennes.” Along with the freedom of movement it offered, the bicycle also exemplified the women’s rights movement.

Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Vice Chair for Bicyclists Josephine Liu said that since the 19th century, “bicycles have empowered people to be more independent. Suffragist leaders Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony praised bicycles for giving women more freedom, more courage, and more self-respect.”

In 1895, Stanton predicted that having the ability to be fully self-reliant, often for the first time in their lives, would encourage women to be more courageous in other areas, such as demanding voting rights. Anthony agreed.

“Let me tell you what I think of bicycling. I think it has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world,” Anthony said.

Before bicycles, social mores required women to get from place to place via chaperoned walks, horse drawn coaches or horseback (sidesaddle).

Two hundred years ago, women purchased and rode the first bicycles, however the “New Woman” of the late 19th century – career-minded, scholarly, athletic and with a belief system in marriage equality and women’s enfranchisement – followed suit.

Many people had misgivings regarding this novel mode of transportation which allowed a female to travel unchaperoned, exercise freely in public, straddle a bicycle seat and experience the shocks and vibrations of the road. They thought it would make women “unfit for motherhood.”

The medical community chimed in; some physicians told women that “bicycle face” – the term used for a cyclist’s concentrated expression while evading traffic – would ruin their beauty and that riding a bike would make them bowlegged.

Despite these unfounded warnings, many women would not give up the newfound freedom bicycle riding afforded, including freedom from cumbersome and restrictive clothing. Long skirts, bustles and tight corsets caused many bike accidents.

In 1895, Frances Willard, a leader of the Women’s Christian Temperance Movement stated, “A woman with [bustle] bands hanging on her hips, and dress snug about the waist and chokingly tight at the throat, with heavy trimmed skirts dragging down the back and numerous folds heating the lower part of the spine, and with tight shoes, ought to be in agony. If women ride, they must...dress more rationally... If they do this, many prejudices will melt away.”

A change in women’s fashion to a more "masculine" dress for cycling included lightweight skirts, trousers and voluminous bloomers. Sometimes known as “divided skirts,” these garments allowed for more movement and in turn, proved safer.

Still, not everyone was a fan of the “bicycling costume.” In 1895, an all-male society in New York pledged to ignore bloomier-wearing women in an attempt to “render such costumes unpopular.” According to the Office of Historic Alexandria’s “Out of the Attic,” which ran in the July 16, 2020 issue of the Times, “initial impressions of a new invention called a bicycle or velocipede in Alexandria were not positive. Yet, clothing merchants in town “saw an opportunity to increase sales by offering cycling-specific outfits.” A far cry from the close-fitting, efficient spandex of today.

Today, the “New Woman” in Alexandria and around the world takes her owned or rented bike to the trails, streets and on public transportation for her commute, enjoyment and liberation. Aid organizations donate bicycles to women in developing nations as a means of emancipation. According to Bike Latest, “an estimated 70-million bicycles are currently in use in the United States, with an additional 18 million bicycles added each year.”

Women’s cycling organizations are growing in popularity, with many branches into community service. Carolyn Schroeder of Alexandria Spokeswomen says the group “hosts a few rides and volunteers for local bicycle-related events such as bike-to-work day, school bike ’rodeos’ and of course, collaborating with BPAC on community rides.”

The bicycle was instrumental in bringing women equality and freedom and continues to do so today. How’s that for recycling?

The writers are founders of Alexandria Celebrates Women, a nonprofit that highlights influential women throughout the city’s history. Contact them at AlexandriaCelebratesWomen@gmail.com.
Focus on functionality

The kitchen space is significant from an investment point of view, as well as an aesthetic one. Beyond the monetary and cosmetic aspects, it’s important to keep in mind the kitchen is also the hardest-working space in the home. The products you select should be beautiful yet durable, and the materials used are as important as the design itself.

As you begin a project, seek options that enhance work areas, ease of operation and convenience. Consider a chef’s sink that fits your personal needs, a faucet that provides multiple water pressures to conserve output or a separate filter faucet to cut down on bottled water use.

Kitchen products should be beautiful yet durable, and the materials used are as important as the design itself.

Create a chef-inspired oasis with these kitchen design trends

BY BRANDPOINT

The kitchen isn’t just a place where you cook food to nourish your body. It’s a place where you gather with friends and family to connect and make memories. Because it’s the heart of the home and facilitates so many activities, it’s important to consider how your kitchen design can enhance the meaningful moments enjoyed within the space.

With this in mind, many people desire to upgrade their kitchen in 2023. If you’re one of them, consider the top trends in kitchen design and how they can enhance your space:

A Beverley Hills gem

Perched on a hill in Beverley Hills, this well-appointed Tudor home offers architectural character entwined with modern amenities. Inside, the light-filled living room boasts a generous amount of space to gather next to the cozy, wood-burning fireplace. The newly renovated white kitchen was updated with quartz countertops and stainless steel appliances. Continuing the circular flow of the main level, the gracious dining room offers ample space for large feasts.

Upstairs are two generously proportioned bedrooms appointed with architectural angles and ample hidden storage in the corner eaves. The bathroom was fully renovated in 2021 with marble tile floors, a new sink and vanity, and a tub/shower with white subway tile.

The lower level offers a rec room/fitness studio/home office, as well as a powder room, large utility room with laundry and access to the garage. Architectural features such as arches, original hardwood floors, vintage door hardware and a telephone niche highlight the historical heritage of this 1940s gem.

The backyard and patio are real treasures with a stone patio built for dining and grilling, an elevated lawn and extensive wooded grounds. This 12,500 square foot lot offers endless possibilities for expansion of the existing home or additional outdoor rooms.

Beverley Hills is one of Alexandria’s most sought after neighborhoods due to its established homes, stunning landscaping, proximity to Washington, D.C. and popular Beverley Park, or “The Pit”. This home is just three miles to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and seven miles to D.C.

HOMES ADVERTORIAL
KITCHEN FROM | 16

Consider a chef’s sink that fits your personal needs, a faucet that provides multiple water pressures or a separate filter faucet to cut down on bottled water consumption.

water consumption. When researching, look for materials that can withstand the rigors of daily use while maintaining their luster and depth of color.

Designer collections

Upscale collections remove guesswork, resulting in a kitchen that is classic and stylish with products that have the strength and durability to withstand the test of time, especially when it comes to faucets. There are many types of sinks to choose from, including chef-inspired, entertainment and apron front sinks.

Minimalist designs

Expect to see more minimalist designs in upscale kitchen products in 2023 and beyond. Remember, minimalist doesn’t mean minimal functionality. The best products pair superior function to suit modern life with minimalist designs that please the eye and offer understated elegance to a room.

Many faucets feature a slim, minimalist design and include a 360-degree swivel spout. Faucets come in different styles; many are available in polished chrome, polished nickel, brushed nickel, unlacquered brass, matte black and stainless finishes.

Thoughtful details

Like the jewelry that makes an outfit, thoughtfully selected details elevate the kitchen. Many people are putting in coffee/espresso stations that they use every day and distinguish the space by using expensive tile to define that one small area and set it apart. Complementing products also serve to complete the look, such as finish-matched soap dispensers or handcrafted cabinet hardware.

Intricate tile backsplashes, a statement-making feature wall, updated lighting, fun bar stools, vintage-style table and chairs and new appliances in a finish appropriate to your fixture and faucet choices will also elevate your kitchen design. An insider note: Expect Mid-century modern aesthetics to continue to be big in 2023 because they tend to embrace minimalist design while maintaining an enduring warmth. This can help guide you when determining the kitchen details.

PHOTO/BRANDPOINT

Consider a chef’s sink that fits your personal needs, a faucet that provides multiple water pressures or a separate filter faucet to cut down on bottled water consumption.


From our home to yours, we wish you and your loved ones a safe and joyous holiday.
**Our View**

**It’s time for change**

There’s nothing more tragic than the preventable death of a child. The Sandy Hook slaughter of small children took place 10 years ago last Wednesday. Something inside us collectively died on Dec. 14, 2012, when 20 children ages 6 and 7 – along with six staff members – perished at the hand of a seriously mentally ill man with a semi-automatic weapon. Almost 10 years lapsed between this tragedy and the eerily similar massacre at Uvalde on May 24, 2022, when 19 students and two teachers were killed by another sick gunman with a legally purchased weapon.

The combination of untreated mental illness, the widespread popularity of violent video games and the continued legal availability of semi-automatic weapons is a malevolent witches’ brew that continues to produce unspeakable tragedies with predictable regularity. The following piece, “Comprehending the unthinkable,” appeared on our opinion pages in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook tragedy and addressed the need, which is still with us, for change: https://alextimes.com/2012/12/comprehending-%e2%80%a8the-unthinkable/

The preventable deaths of children have, sadly, long been with us, as our page 1 story, “The history of the Johnson Memorial Pool” illustrates. On July 30, 1951, brothers Lonnie and Leroy Johnson, ages 9 and 11, drowned while playing in the Potomac River. At the time, three years before the landmark Brown v. Board of Education ruling in May 1954 declared that “separate but equal” was both false and illegal, there were no public swimming pools open to Blacks either in Alexandria nor Northern Virginia as a whole.

So Black children swam in creeks, ponds and the Potomac River to cool off on hot summer days – while their white counterparts had access to pools protected by lifeguards – and some of them perished when they should have lived long and full lives. That a public pool for Blacks, subsequently named for the Johnson brothers, was opened the next year was of course too late to save Lonnie and Leroy. But at least that particular wrong was eventually righted.

When will we right the tragic wrongs that allow children of all races to die at the hands of noninstitutionalized yet violently ill young men who continue to legally access weapons intended for mass killing?

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**Twice as nice**

It takes a special person to adopt two pets at once, particularly when the pets in question are older and may not have many years left. Former long-time Alexandria resident Ginger Vallaster is such a person, as she took in her precious pair, Sam and Tater, four years ago.

Another senior pair of dogs, sisters Sophie and Joey, also need a home together. As our page 1 story, “AWLA seeks home for senior dog pair,” illustrates, this dynamic duo have lived together their whole lives. Their elderly owner became unable to care for them and had to give them up. For adoption inquiries, contact the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria at adopt@alexandriaanimals.org, and for fostering inquiries email foster@alexandriaanimals.org.

We hope there’s a home in this city filled with dog-loving residents who are willing to give these sweet sisters the ultimate holiday gift – that of a loving home.

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**Opinion**

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

- Thomas Jefferson

**Photo of the Week**

A holiday wreath adorns a window at The Athenaeum.

**Your Views**

**Parallels between flooding and housing affordability**

To the editor:

As a member of the Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Committee, I am excited to see the City Council’s emphasis, mentioned in the mayor’s December newsletter, on housing affordability, with its Zoning for Housing Initiative.

I agree with the mayor’s perspective that the two main levers to create housing are budget and zoning. Having seen and participated in the review process on housing developments touching the city’s budget to support set-asides for lower incomes, we have certainly tapped the financial resources of the city to the best of our ability. There is much opportunity to grow by looking at zoning holistically.

Think about housing affordability with an apt metaphor for Alexandria, flooding. The market price or rent of a unit of housing can be seen as the water level, rising rapidly across the city year-over-year. Set-asides for housing affordability through city and federal programs help provide flotation devices to keep families and individuals above water, but think about all those who don’t receive one.

We obviously have to keep providing flotation to those caught in the rising cost of housing, and even at a faster clip, but we can’t afford to throw up our hands at the rising of the water. We need to work harder to drain it. Zoning reform promotes more housing, freeing the market to build more supply and drain the water more quickly. All while keeping more and more current Alexandria renters from falling under the water line.

I am excited to see City Council’s unanimous agreement to accelerate the exploration of this key tool to promote housing affordability, and look forward to seeing engagement from Alexandrians on this topic throughout.

-Peter Siderovski,
Alexandria

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The opinions expressed in letters and columns are those of the writers only and do not reflect the views, nor receive the endorsement, of the Alexandria Times.
ACPS safety issues

To the editor:

I am certain that the irony would not be lost on residents of Alexandria of the fact that on the same day that the interim superintendent of Alexandria Public Schools published her “Simply the best” article in the Alexandria Times, with a total of four sentences addressing violence in the ACPS systems, saying things like “School safety and security is another major priority being addressed at ACPS,” the Times ran a three-page article on the “big-ass fight” at Minnie Howard three days before.

I believe Denise Dunbar better addressed the problems and offered a more detailed description of the issues than anything that has come from the school administration. When gangs of 14- and 15-year-olds, or older, operate with impunity in the schools, and the schools themselves are in a “constant state of chaos,” no one is safe, and no one learns. I believe it is important that ACPS address these known problems head-on, and not in the unworkable manner they have used to date. The majority of the students who come to school to learn, and the community as a whole, will be better off for it.

-Wes Teague,
Alexandria

My View | Heather Peeler

Giving with confidence

BY HEATHER PEELER

What a year it’s been! As we look back and think ahead to the coming year, it’s clear to see that our community has much to celebrate, but also much to act on.

I’ve been fortunate enough to see how Alexandrians have cared for their neighbors through challenging times. Community members have faced food insecurity, educational setbacks and a steady increase in the cost of living. While we have made great strides against COVID-19, many of its effects continue to hit hard against our most vulnerable friends and neighbors.

At the same time, the economic outlook is uncertain. Pundits and economists predict a challenging economy. Many of us have already looked to our budgets to see where we can save a few more dollars. But community nonprofits – and the clients they serve – don’t have the benefit of waiting things out. Many of them face the real possibility of scaling back or taking drastic steps to stay afloat.

Giving with confidence can feel daunting: our neighbors have significant needs, there are many worthy nonprofits that need support and we are facing economic headwinds.

There’s no question that when we care for our neighbors, everyone benefits. Alexandrians never fail to answer the need and come to the aid of our neighbors. It’s something we get to see firsthand every day at ACT. It’s this kind of investment in our community that I hope inspires you to give with confidence this giving season.

Here are a few ways you can give with confidence:

- Consider substituting a night out with friends for donation to a local organization addressing hunger or an arts organization.
- Give a donation in honor of a friend or family member. It’s a creative way to show a loved one how much they mean to you.
- If you invest in stocks, give appreciated stocks. Some companies have actually seen profits and stock prices increase. By giving appreciated stock you get a tax benefit, and the nonprofit gets a much-needed donation.
- Give your time. Whether on your own or together with friends and family, volunteering delivers a mental health boost and does good in the community.

ACT for Alexandria is a resource for donors who want to be more strategic and impactful in their giving. Feel free to reach out to us if we can be of help.

No matter how much you give, know that all gifts make a difference. That’s the power of collective giving. When we give in concert with others, we provide the fuel that nonprofits need to provide the critical programs and services that make our community strong.

The writer is president and CEO of Act for Alexandria.

Ethical Reflections

In defense of Santa Claus

BY REV. IAN MARKHAM

Skepticism abounds about the existence of Santa Claus. Some are puzzled as to how Santa can get around the entire globe in one night, others do not understand the economics of Santa – who exactly is paying? – and some think it is just a 20th century invention of Coca Cola.

Let us sort out this issue once and for all. There is no question that Santa existed as a historical figure. We have St. Nicholas of Myra – a third century bishop – who, among his many achievements, delivered gifts to those in need. When a father was unable to secure his daughters a good marriage, St. Nicholas provided anonymous gifts to solve the problem.

Now when we think of Santa, we are thinking of this semi-magical figure that visits every home on planet earth. But of course, it is not every home: other religious traditions already have their own systems of ensuring their own festivals for gift-giving. Hindus have Diwali; Muslims enjoy Eid al-Fitr, when children often get gifts; and traditionally, the Jewish gift-giving holiday was Purim, although increasingly it is Hanukkah. So, Santa does not need to get to every home; instead, it is just every Christian home.

We estimate there are 2.5 billion homes in the world. Christians occupy approximately one third of these homes – some 767 million homes. Now Santa has 24 hours to visit these homes in one night – which means Santa needs to reach 32 million homes every hour. This is 534,000 homes every minute, which is 8,900 homes every second. Given the distances between homes, Santa will need to be traveling at about 36,000 mph per second.

Armed with this information, we have solved one mystery. The reason why countless children have been unable to see Santa is because his visit is literally just a moment. In the time it takes to blink, Santa will have been and gone.

But does this sound rather implausible? One must remember that the Santa narrative involves reindeer with the capacity to fly. We are in the world of magic. And in terms of the speeds in the universe, 36,000 mph every second is nothing. Light travels at 186,000 miles a second. Compared to the speed of light, Santa is moving slowly. He is just traveling at one fifth the speed of light.

While this is possible, there are also other options available to Santa. Traditionally, there are some children who have been naughty and are not on Santa’s list: this reduces the number of homes that Santa needs to visit. In addition, perhaps Santa has a few elf helpers who do some of the deliveries; perhaps some parents are asked by Santa to arrange the presents in a particular home. Taken together, we have plenty of reasons to think that Santa can manage this very busy night journey.

So, for all of you Santa skeptics out there, just relax this year. It is perfectly possible that the spirit of St. Nicholas is continuing to make his rounds. There is, after all, one piece of evidence that seems irrefutable. Every Christmas morning, there is a pile of presents in the home; there is the stocking which is full. And Santa makes perfect sense. Christmas morning is a magical moment because the presents are themselves a result of a special magical energy that makes the occasion so special.

The writer is dean of Virginia Theological Society.
The American Civil War standardized the concept of what an American Christmas should be. While technological advances, such as time-keeping and canned food were made uniform by the Union Army, a new cultural concept of Christmas tradition took hold in the post-1861 United States.

The widespread use of Thomas Nast images of Santa Claus and the adaptations soldiers made to accommodate both their surroundings and their fellow soldiers allowed the troops, many of whom were recent arrivals to the United States, a template for a standardized celebration of the holiday. What was in some parts of the country a very strictly religious holiday began to represent a time of laughter, a community that didn’t necessarily mean family, and gift-giving that evolved to a more commercial concept of the holiday by the mid-20th century.

Thomas Nast first published an illustration of his interpretation of Santa Claus in the winter of 1862 for Harper’s Weekly. The depictions of a jolly gift-bringer were so successful, President Abraham Lincoln joked that Nast’s depictions of the war, and his annual tradition of drawing Santa Claus were “the best recruiting sergeant the North ever had.”

An article in the Dec. 26, 1863 edition of Harper’s, with the cover illustration by Nast, argued:

“Ought it not be a merry Christmas? Even with all the sorrow that hangs, and will forever hang, over so many households; even while the war still rages; even while there are serious questions yet to be settled – ought it not to be, and is it not, a merry Christmas?”

Nast kept building his interpretation of Santa Claus after the end of the war, including the residence at the North Pole in 1866. Illustrations of the workshop and the naughty and nice list followed in later years.

For years, Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site has offered a Christmas and the Civil War program. The program features a Civil War-era Union Santa Claus – based on an 1865 cover of Harper’s Weekly by Nast – who interacts with the public, welcomes children to the reconstructed Officers’ Hut, and visits soldiers in camp. Reenactors interpret army life in winter camps decorated for the season, celebrate by opening Christmas boxes from home, sing carols of the period around the campfire, and prepare holiday meals. This year’s program took place on Dec. 10.

OUT OF THE ATTIC

Christmas in camp.

Civil War Santa.

Weekly Poll

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

63% Nope, healthy as a horse here!
15% I/we home tested positive for COVID.
15% I/we’ve had the flu.
5% I/we had a positive COVID PCR test.
1% I/we’ve had RSV.

This Week
Have you ever adopted a pet from a shelter or rescue organization?

A) Yes, a puppy or a kitten.
B) Yes, a senior dog or cat.
C) Yes, something else.
D) No.
Weekly Words

WHITE CHRISTMAS by Ryan McCarty and Adrian Johnson, edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS
1 Full of chutzpah
6 Greeting in Madrid
10 "Black ___" (2022 superhero film)
14 Grasp intuitively
18 Cherished by
19 Undeveloped area
21 House overhang
22 Slang for a convertible
23 "Something seems off... you OK?"
25 TV sleuth Remington
26 Number of swans a-swimming in "The 12 Days of Christmas"
27 Border trimmers
28 Weapons in silos
30 Hybrid, curly-haired dog breed
33 "u said enough!"
36 Slovenian conflict that lasted less than a fortnight
37 Bread choice
38 Word before "can" or "talk"
41 Go from here to there like *that*
42 Approached rapidly
43 Digital filing services?
46 Young maiden
47 Floral liquid in many Persian desserts
49 Like a complex plot
52 Made bank
53 Worked hard for
54 "Must it be said?"
55 "The Simpsons" teacher Krabappel
56 Attach with a click
58 Japanese heavyweight athlete
59 Like a drag brunch performer
60 Refines, as ore
61 "Lah-di-___!"
62 Pipe-clearing brand
63 Three-wheeled taxi
69 Michele in 2022's "Funny Girl"
72 Central idea
74 Part of a DJ's stack, perhaps
75 Like "Mr. Irrelevant," among NFL draft picks
76 Caption on an unedited Instagram photo
77 Parenting pair, perhaps
78 "Fingers crossed!"
79 Solution for dry eyes
80 Like Jack's beans
81 Tool that makes chips?
82 Napa neighbor
84 "Kung Fu" actor Philip
88 Early animal shelter?
90 The Trojans of the NCAA

DOWN
1 Rhythm
2 Fury
3 NASA program to return to the moon
4 Vodka brand, briefly
5 "Fingers crossed!"
6 "Sup?"
7 "Hamlet" character who speaks of a primrose path
8 "I get it now!"
9 Starts a poker pot
10 "Lah-di-____!"
11 Fitting
12 Big club in Vegas?
13 Polaroid or ticket stub, perhaps
14 From the ___ (all along)
15 Like many horror films
16 Too, too
17 Track-and-field Olympian Jackie Joyner-___
18 ENTs, e.g.
19 Starts a poker pot
20 ID on a W-2 form
21 Like emotionally
22 Follows a lead
23 Florist's supply
24 Rahul Bose
25 "Lah-di-___!"
26 "Must it be said?"
27 Where are you likely to find bacon?
28 You take off (metaphor)
29 Brewer's bitter ingredient
30 Place for strong pitchers?
31 Refines, as ore
32 Hebrew language
33 "I get it now!"
34 "Lah-di-___!"
35 "Lah-di-___!"
36 "I get it now!"
37 "Lah-di-___!"
38 "I get it now!"
39 "Lah-di-___!"
40 "Lah-di-___!"
41 "Lah-di-___!"
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99 "Lah-di-___!"
100 "Lah-di-___!"
101 "Lah-di-___!"
102 "Lah-di-___!"

DEATH NOTICES

DAVID BARBEE (87), formerly of Alexandria, Dec. 15, 2022
MICHAEL BARRE (63), of Alexandria, Dec. 8, 2022
DOUGLAS COCHRANE (86), of Alexandria, Dec. 14, 2022
HARRY FOLEY (95), of Alexandria, Dec. 12, 2022
BRENDA GIUSEPPE (82), formerly of Alexandria, Dec. 13, 2022
MARTHA JOHNSON (76), formerly of Alexandria, Dec. 10, 2022
CLARALOU KIDD (98), of Alexandria, Dec. 10, 2022
ARLINE KING (94), formerly of Alexandria, Dec. 13, 2022
JOAN KORNMAN (87), of Alexandria, Dec. 14, 2022
DECEMBER 22

CAT CAFE HOLIDAY PARTY AND TRIVIA NIGHT
Mount Purrnon is hosting a holiday party and trivia night. Wear your best Ugly Christmas Sweater, enjoy some seasonal snacks and drinks, and play holiday-themed trivia.

Time: 6 to 8 p.m.
Location: 109 S. Alfred St.
Information: www.mtpurrnoncatcafe.com/events

CALFORNIA TIMES

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Experience a magical morning with Santa Claus at Ada’s on the River. The event will start with a festive breakfast feast, complete with take-home treats for children and Prosecco bellinis for adults. Then, you’ll meet Santa and take a keepsake photo with him.

Time: 8 to 10 a.m.
Location: 3 Pioneer Mill Way
Information: www.adasontheriver.com

POWER DESIGN
NOW HIRING ELECTRICAL APPRENTICES OF ALL SKILL LEVELS!

about the position...
Do you love working with your hands? Are you interested in construction and in becoming an electrician? Then the electrical apprentice position could be perfect for you! Electrical apprentices are able to earn a paycheck and full benefits while learning the trade through firsthand experience.

more details...
Visit powerdesigninc.us/careers or email careers@powerdesigninc.us!

CLASSIFIEDS

ALEXANDRIA TIMES

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22 | DECEMBER 22, 2022

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ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION & CITY COUNCIL JANUARY 2023

The items described below will be heard by the Planning Commission and the City Council on the dates and times listed below. NOTICE: Some of the items listed below may be placed on a Consent Calendar. A consent item will be approved at the beginning of the meeting without discussion unless someone asks that it be taken off the Consent Calendar and considered separately. The Planning Commission reserves the right to recess and continue the Public Hearing to a future date. For further information, call the Department of Planning & Zoning at 703.746.4666 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/dockets.

ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION
THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2023
7:00 PM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2023
9:30 AM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

The January 5, 2023 Alexandria Planning Commission Public Hearing and the January 21, 2023 Alexandria City Council Public Hearing are being held in the Council Chamber (301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314) and electronically. Members of the Planning Commission, City Council, and staff are participating in-person. The Planning Commission and City Council Public Hearings can be accessed by the public in the City Council Chamber, through the live broadcast on the government channel 70, streaming on the City’s website, and can be accessed via Zoom Webinar by the following links:

Planning Commission (Public Hearing Webinar):
The Webinar will open at 6:30 p.m.

to allow individuals to join, while the Planning Commission hearing will begin at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Registration Link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_A7g2N5biR7Cm0iGjnY1F5A

Zoom Audio Conference:
City Council (Public Hearing Webinar):
Zoom Audio Conference:

Zoom Audio Conference:

If you use the Zoom Webinar application, please be sure you have updated the application to the latest version for the best results. If you are unable to access the Zoom Webinar, please use the Dial-In number to access the meeting.

Public comment will be received at the meetings. The public may submit comments in advance to Department of Planning & Zoning staff at PlanComm@alexandriava.gov for the Planning Commission Hearing; to the City Clerk at CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov for the City Council Hearing; or make public comments on the day of either Hearing.

For reasonable disability accommodation for the Planning Commission Hearing, contact Lisa Chase at alicia.chase@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.4666, Virginia Relay 711. For reasonable disability accommodation for the City Council Hearing, please call the City Clerk and Clerk of Council’s Office at 703.746.4550 (TTY/TDD 838-5056). We request that you provide a 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made.

Discussion Item: Draft FY 2024 Long Range Planning Interdepartmental Work Program
Staff: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning & Zoning

Discussion Item: Draft Energy and Climate Change Action Plan
Staff: City of Alexandria, General Services Administration

Special Use Permit #2022-00092
1225 King Street
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit for a floor area ratio (FAR) of up to 2.5 with an open space modification for the conversion from nonresidential to residential use for the upper floors of an existing building, zoned KR.
Applicant: King Street Arts LLC, represented by Duncan Blair

Rezoning #2022-00007
Development Site Plan #2022-00004
Subdivision #2022-00004
636 Stevenson Avenue - Edgewood Towns
Public Hearing and consideration of requests for: (A) an amendment to the official zoning map to change the zone from RB/Townhouse zone to RC/High density apartment zone with proffer; (B) a Development Site Plan with modifications to construct seven (7) townhomes and site improvements, including shared driveway and parking access pursuant to Section 7-1600(F) and reduced size parking spaces pursuant to Section 11-512(B), and; (C) a Subdivision to subdivide the existing one (1) lot into seven (7) lots; zoned R-B/Townhouse Zone.
Applicant: Old Creek Homes LLC, represented by Duncan Blair

Encroachment #2022-00005
2462 Mandeville Lane - Nando’s Outdoor Dining
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for an Encroachment for outdoor dining and related structures into the public right-of-way at 2462 Mandeville Lane.
Applicant: Nando’s Restaurant Group, Inc., represented by LJP Architects

Development Site Plan #2022-00025
Discovery Time Learning Center - 417 Hume Avenue
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Development Site Plan to allow for the enclosure and renovation of an existing open porch within a zone transition setback at a day care center pursuant to Section 7-903 of the Zoning Ordinance; zoned CDD#24 / Coordinated Development District #24.
Applicant: Stephanie Harris, represented by Theresa del Ninno, Architect
Classifieds

City Charter Section 9.06 Case #2022-00006
William Ramsay Recreational Center and Park
Public Hearing and consideration of request for Planning Commission to review whether several new utility easements related to Dominion Energy infrastructure and service reliability improvements are consistent with the City of Alexandria Master Plan pursuant to Section 9.06 of the City Charter.
Applicant: Virginia Electric and Power Company (doing business in Virginia as Dominion Energy Virginia)

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Truist 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), Truist 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 Truist Bank at the address above.

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We do not repair damaged floors

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BOOK NOW - WEEKS ARE FILLING UP FAST!

877-642-3224
brindleybeach.com

PUBLICATION NOTICE

Full name(s) of owner(s):

Trading as:

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Date notice posted at establishment: 12/21/2022

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or (800) 552-3200.

Custom Storage Sheds
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No permit required anything under 15 x 20 ft. tall. Rough to finish carpentry and painting.
703-863-7567.

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高度不超过15x20英尺
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 Classifieds

City Charter Section 9.06 Case #2022-00006
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During the holiday season, our thoughts turn gratefully to our communities and to our clients.
From our family to yours, we hope your holidays are filled with warmth and cheer.

LEADERSHIP  Maureen McEnearney Dunn, President ∙ Dave Hawkins, Chief Operating Officer ∙ Michael Day, EVP & Managing Broker 

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