Birchmere owner Gary Oelze dies at 80

Gary Oelze, who owned and founded the acclaimed Birchmere music hall, died on Monday of congestive heart failure. He was 80.

Oelze was born on Aug. 24, 1942 in Owensboro, Kentucky to S.V. Oelze and Carmelia Hagan. He was the third of seven children, six of whom were boys, according to “All Roads Lead to The Birchmere,” a book he wrote with Stephen Moore. Oelze's father was a restaurateur who also ran a grocery store and later a successful roofing company. Oelze learned to play the guitar as a child and formed a band with his brother and a neighborhood friend at age 15.

After finishing school, Oelze left Kentucky for the Air Force and the D.C. area. In the mid-1960s, upon completing

Finally at home

Afghan refugee finds solace through helping fellow immigrants

Faheem Ahmad moved to the City of Alexandria several years ago as an Afghan refugee. The process was grueling, extensive and often left him experiencing a sense of unhidden otherness, but it’s a feeling with which he’s familiar because it marked his second stint as a refugee. Ahmad has drawn on those experiences and, with help from Alexandria’s Workforce Development Center, plans to devote the rest of his life to helping other refugees.

Though he was raised in Pakistan, Ahmad was born in Afghanistan in 1997 while his mother, pregnant with him, was visiting family. Several years prior to his birth, Ahmad’s father, mother and siblings had fled Afghanistan to escape that country’s civil war. At that time, rebel factions had besieged Kabul and overthrown communist president Najibullah, thrusting the country into disarray.
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 approximately 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 ft. tall ceilings, transom windows above the doors, wide plank wire brushed white oak wood flooring, open staircase, 9 in. 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-functional 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 a family room, which lead to the back porch overlooking and convenient to National Airport & Amazon HQ2.

2500 KING ST. I GEORGE WASHINGTON PARK | $2,200,000

RARELY available 3-level END UNIT Fairlington Towne Home! This AMAZING end townhome (largest model 1,490 sq ft) features lots of natural light, a private fenced-in yard and covered front porch. The main level has an open floor plan- kitchen wall opened up, granite counters, backsplash and under counter lights. Two amply-sized bedrooms upstairs, a large living room, dining room, finished lower level and TWO FULL baths!

Christine Garner (703) 587-4855
It’s not just my business, it’s my neighborhood.
For additional information & photos, go to: www.ChristineGarner.com

BE A FOSTER, SAVE A LIFE
Volunteer at www.project-secondchance.org/foster

Weichert
Second bargaining agreement reached

On Tuesday evening, City Council unanimously approved a resolution to commit funding toward a collective bargaining agreement between Alexandria and the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2141.

According to the agreement, Alexandria Fire Department employees will receive “competitive, market-rate salary increases, a pathway to reduced hours in the work week, assurance of ongoing investments in city facilities and safety initiatives,” and “continued access to the city’s benefits package.”

The agreement will allocate $3.5 million next year for salaries and other costs, and another $13.9 million over three years. It also allows for more safety initiatives, totaling up to $2.4 million next year and $13.5 million over three years.

Council’s approval of the agreement follows the city’s first collective bargaining agreement last year with the Southern States Police Benevolent Association for Alexandria Police Department employees – the first in more than 40 years.

While the move has elicited mixed reactions, Mayor Justin Wilson expressed excitement about the agreement.

“City staff, alongside IAFF leadership, were committed to finding common ground in the interest of public safety, as well as elevating the collective voice of the department,” he said.

Shooting suspect mistakenly released

An Alexandria resident was mistakenly released from a jail in Prince George’s County after being arrested in connection with a shooting incident.

The Alexandria Police Department began investigating an incident that occurred on Jan. 15 in the 4600 block of Duke Street in which one person was shot, according to a news release.

Then, on Jan. 20, APD’s Special Investigations Unit and the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force took Brian Wordell Morris Jr., 27, into custody. According to the release, Morris was mistakenly released from jail that same day. His whereabouts are currently unknown.

Anyone with information leading to his whereabouts is encouraged to contact Detective John Bratelli at 703-746-6699 or John.Bratsellili@alexandriava.gov.

Community Fire Academy applications open

The Alexandria Fire Department is currently accepting applications for its spring 2023 Community Fire Academy, according to a news release.

The free program is offered to city residents and business owners who are 18 and up. It works to educate community members about both fire safety and the history of the agency.

According to the academy, the program’s goal is to “build partnerships within the community by helping participants understand how the fire department works, and to encourage volunteering within the community.”

Beginning on March 16, the program will take place on Thursdays from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. It will end with a graduation ceremony for participants on May 4. For more information, visit alexandriava.gov/academies.

The deadline for applications is March 3.

Meet Nyla!

AlexandriaAnimals.org/Adopt-By-Appointment
703-746-4774

Sponsored by

Diann Carlson
Realtor®
TTR Sotheby’s International Realty
dcarlson@ttrsr.com

“Because everyone needs a home.”
Oelze with his military service, he was managing a Peoples Drug store in Arlington when a friend approached him about a business opportunity. The friend was going to buy the Birchmere Restaurant, at the time a small food-only establishment, and asked Oelze to manage it. Oelze said yes.

The Birchmere Restaurant originally served German food, according to “All Roads Lead To The Birchmere,” a book on the Birchmere’s 50-year history that Oelze wrote in 2021 with Stephen Moore. Oelze quickly changed the menu to burgers and fries, which led to a steady lunchtime crowd, and the establishment developed a thriving bar scene at night.

In the mid-70s, Oelze decided to add live music, and it was his own band, The Old Five and Dimers, that first began playing at the Birchmere. Early on, Oelze mainly booked bluegrass bands, tapping into what was then a thriving D.C.-area bluegrass scene. Progressive bluegrass stalwarts The Seldom Scene have been a mainstay at the Birchmere through the years, and Oelze also booked Alison Krauss back when she was a fiddling prodigy.

Oelze quickly expanded the Birchmere’s offerings, and they grew to eventually include traditional country, outlaw country, zydeco, folk, jazz, blues and other genres. The music hall has hosted a wide range of performers through the years, from iconic figures like Ray Charles, Johnny Cash and Emmylou Harris to former teen heartthrob David Cassidy to the alt-folk performer Suzanne Vega to Texas outlaw troubadour Jerry Jeff Walker – who played the Birchmere 133 times – to the legendary Gordon Lightfoot.

In “All Roads Lead To The Birchmere,” former Washington Post music critic Buzz McClain wrote:

“...and the word went out really soon that ‘You’ve got to go to the Birchmere, Gary Oelze’s really great.’”

Mandolinist Dan Shipp also emphasized Oelze’s focus on musical quality in “All Roads Lead To The Birchmere:”

“It was immediately apparent that Gary was extremely interested in sound quality and investing his profits into improvements. He didn’t want a noisy bar with the band in the

Moore said it was Oelze’s focus on the musician’s experience that has made the Birchmere such a favorite of artists from around the country.

“He was telling me sort of his philosophy of running the club and how he wanted to do things for the people,” Moore said. “These guys were coming off the bus [and] they were dirty. Their managers were telling them to take towels from the hotel room, so [Gary] made a shower and got them a washing machine to do their clothes. ... The musicians talk among themselves ... and the word went out really soon that ‘You’ve got to go to the Birchmere, Gary Oelze’s really great.’”

Gary Oelze with legendary country singer Glen Campbell.

The tribute to Gary Oelze currently on the Birchmere’s marquee.
Well-located and reimagined within an historic academy building, the residences at St. John’s Square offer the best of the old & new. With 2-car parking for each of the ten homes, properties in this unique community rarely come to the market. 302 S. Columbus boasts one of the larger floor plans including 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 3 fireplaces, 4 levels and many original features, circa, 1812. Its modern amenities juxtaposed against its historic elements will delight the most discriminating buyer. Easily walkable to both the riverfront and the Metro.

302 S. Columbus Street
LISTED FOR $1,124,000
3 BEDROOMS | 2.5 BATHROOMS | PARKING FOR TWO

Alexandria Brokerage | 400 S Washington Street, Alexandria, VA

Diann Carlson
+1 703 628 2440
dcarlson@ttrsir.com
From Pete Kennedy that led to amazing nights of music, according to Kennedy, half of the local folk-rock music, according to Pete Kennedy. "The Birchmere will still be the best venue on the road." The one common denominator that linked all those great nights of music was Gary Oelze, who not only owned the place but was a tireless, relentless supporter of independent music," Kennedy said in a statement he sent to The Washington Post. Survivors include his wife of 10 years, Susan, along with three children from his first marriage: Carrie Oelze of Boca Raton, Florida; Cheryl Oelze of Centreville, Virginia; and Vick Oelze of Sanford, North Carolina; a stepdaughter, Kelly Pilchard of New York City; three brothers; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Long-time radio host Lee Smith and Georgia Mechlin ended in divorce, according to the Washington Post. Survivors include his wife of 10 years, Susan, along with three children from his first marriage: Carrie Oelze of Boca Raton, Florida; Cheryl Oelze of Centreville, Virginia; and Vick Oelze of Sanford, North Carolina; a stepdaughter, Kelly Pilchard of New York City; three brothers; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Chapin Carpenter said Alexandria’s music scene will forever miss Oelze. “The Birchmere will still bring world class music to the Washington, D.C. area, but it won’t be the same without Gary,” Chapin Carpenter wrote on Facebook. “Thank you old friend for your kindness, friendship and generosity – stars in your crown and a peaceful journey...”

Gary Oelze with wife Susan.
Celebrating 20 years of supporting Alexandria and Northern Virginia home buyers & sellers to achieve their real estate goals.

110 N Royal Street Suite 300 | Alexandria, VA 22314
Early in his life, Ahmad realized that he was treated differently from his Pakistani peers. This manifested in many ways, such as being called derogatory names like “immigrant” and excluded from activities. “There were a lot of struggles. When I was growing, I started to feel like I’m a different person than my school classmates and teachers and everyone else,” Ahmad recalled. “I started to feel like I’m treated differently in a negative way.”

Later, he was denied a rental apartment due to his refugee status and refused appointments and medication at some public hospitals. And although he would live in Pakistan for more than 20 years by the time he left, he was still not permitted to gain citizenship, own property or even open a bank account.

Ahmad graduated from university with a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a specialization in human resource management in May 2019 and unsuccessfully attempted to find employment in Pakistan because of his refugee status. So he eventually returned to Afghanistan in hopes of securing a job, only for the Taliban to later enter Kabul on Aug. 15, 2021 and ultimately collapse Afghanistan’s Western-supported government.

Evacuation
The events of that day come back to Ahmad with pristine clarity. He was en route to apply for a visa in Pakistan, which had recently closed its borders due to the growing conflict in Afghanistan. Suddenly, people nearby were frantically leaving buildings and running out into the middle of the street. They had just been given an evacuation order via Afghan media to immediately go home, as the Taliban had overtaken Kabul.

“It was very chaotic. Everybody was running, people were closing the shops and people were taking their items. Women were running, children were running, there was no public transport. It was total chaos,” Ahmad said.

Two days after the invasion, Ahmad’s brother-in-law, who

\**\*

A young Ahmad (right) and his brother, Rafi, in Pakistan.

\**\*
Ahmad was a U.S. citizen, received an email from the U.S. embassy instructing him and his immediate family to immediately go to the airport for potential military evacuation.

The evacuation process was tumultuous, and just getting inside the airport proved to be nearly an impossible feat. According to Ahmad, the entrance to the airport was crowded with throngs of people desperately trying to evacuate. The United States, French and British military guarded the entrances, people kicked and shoved past each other aggressively, and gunfire sounded from every direction in an attempt to manage the crowds.

“They were shooting in front just a few feet away from me. It was really scary. I had never heard gunshots as close as that. I had never heard something like that,” Ahmad said.

Once Ahmad and his family finally got inside the airport, operations were much calmer. Following an 81-hour evacuation process -- which Ahmad said involved no sleep, approximately 500 people on his plane sitting shoulder to shoulder and a long stop at the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar – he finally stepped foot on U.S. soil.

The taxing process engendered a great deal of reflection on Ahmad’s part. As he started to digest the trauma he experienced, it dawned on him that the recent displacement was not too unlike his early experiences in Pakistan.

“I realized that I am becoming a refugee twice in a lifetime, again at a young age,” Ahmad said.

One of the most challenging moments came after landing in the Dulles International Airport, Ahmad said, was when immigration officials directed his family and him to wait in the airport for almost 12 hours while processing documents. They did not have any idea when they would be released.

But it also brought a sense of relief, joy and boundless opportunity.

“We were waiting minute by minute. And of course, we were very tired from the last 81 hours, so that was very difficult,” Ahmad said. “... [But] in order to get something, we have to lose something. So, I’m happy I waited [because] I got an entrance to the USA.”

A fresh start

Although Ahmad stayed with his brother in San Francisco, California for the first month, he eventually moved to Alexandria to build a professional career.

Upon moving to the city, Ahmad opened a bank account, received work authorization approval, state identification card and refugee cash assistance. By April 2022, he was an employee at Ross Dress for Less. The Times highlighted this arc in the April 14, 2022 story, “Afghan refugees face job struggles.”

Since then, Ahmad has made significant progress. After working at Ross for several months, he landed a job as a security guard for a Washington, D.C. apartment complex where he would patrol the pool and rooftop. He went from making $12 an hour to $18.

He attributes a portion of his success to the fact that he’s well educated and fluent in English, which many refugees are not.

“For me, I didn’t face a lot of struggles because I was familiar with how to use [the] internet, how to search on Facebook, how to use Indeed.com, plus I had relatives here who were guiding me,” Ahmad said.

Aware of his advantage, Ahmad decided he wanted to help other refugees who were in similar situations but did not possess the same skills and resources. He posted on the “I Love Alexandria” Facebook page seeking a job in the city, to which someone pointed him toward the Workforce Development Center.

When a WDC employee asked him what kind of job he was looking for, Ahmad very specifically stated that he desired to work in social services, specifically with refugees and immigrants.

“She said, ’Why?’ And I said, ’Since I have been a refugee in my life, I have seen the struggles of immigrants, and why people escape from countries, and why people are forced to leave their countries and move to another country,” Ahmad said. “So, I am completely aware of those feelings and those pains and those compromises.”

The employee told him that she was deeply inspired by his ambitions. She also noted that Ahmad’s resume looked unprofessional and so created a new one for him on the spot, promising that once an opportunity arose she would be in touch with him.

After four months, the WDC employee contacted Ahmad with an opening at Lutheran Social Services, a nonprofit organization that assists with refugee resettlement. He interviewed, and later accepted an internship with the organization. Just one month into the internship, Ahmad’s supervisor expressed satisfaction with his performance and promoted him to a permanent position as a job developer.

In this current position Ahmad provides employment services to immigrants, particularly Afghans and Ukrainians. He assists nearly 300 clients primarily with job searches, resume building, interview preparation and pre-employment training. He also provides secondary services that are not directly related to employment, such as social, emotional and cultural support. The objective, he said, is to help them eventually achieve self-sufficiency and financial independence.

Recently, in a full circle kind of moment, he helped one woman secure a job as a cashier. And his work doesn’t stop there; he plans to next help her find a higher paying job, and then another higher paying job after that. He plans to spend the rest of his career in the social services field.

Hardship and prejudice have touched Ahmad’s life from an early age, and he’s the first to acknowledge that the psychological scars will take time to heal. At the same time, it was in the trenches that he discovered his calling, and through that calling he finally found permanence and belonging.

“I have always been made for the social services,” Ahmad said. “... Sometimes I feel like God is working through my hands. I feel extremely happy. When I come home, I feel very honored, and I take pride that I contributed to the betterment of human beings and made positive changes in their life.”

—oanderson@alextimes.com
Residential parking permits, affordable housing concerns raised at public hearing

BY JACKIE FISHMAN

Residential issues, DASH bus routes and use of public right-of-way space were front and center at City Council’s Saturday public meeting.

At the top of the meeting, Alexandria Transit Company Board member Kara Fast brought up the DASH bus 34 route change reconsideration since it impacts those living on North Pitt Street and is very close to their doors and windows. It also reduces transit proximity for low-income residents and seniors, she said.

Board member Jim Murphy presented a similar viewpoint on the same issue.

The first item on the docket was a request for outdoor dining space at Nando’s Restaurant, located at 462 Mandeville Lane. This request included an encroachment and related structures into the public right-of-way at 2462 Mandeville Lane was unanimously approved.

The item that created the most discussion involved a special use permit request for 1225 King St. King Street Apts LLC, represented by land use attorney Duncan Blair requested consideration of a request for a SUP for a floor area ratio 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.

During discussion, Councilor Alyia Gaskins requested that in general, requests like this one should encompass both planning and affordable housing goals. She advocated for looking at these issues comprehensively as a housing master plan update, and urged that council take clear guidance from staff as to how these plans are studied, both as the way a conversion is managed and how this process should occur.

Vice Mayor Amy Jackson stated that there are only 9,000 to 10,000 accredited affordable housing square feet in this project and not the generally approved, but voluntary 19,000 square feet. She said that Alexandria does not always have to agree to every invitation to reinvent the use of a piece of property. She stated that she was not happy about this conversion, but would vote for it. Jackson emphasized the importance of ensuring that spaces like this are used and don’t sit empty, but said Alexandria should get more affordable housing when these permits are approved.

Councilor John Chapman mentioned that the affordable housing commission has not been forthcoming on these kinds of requests. He said he was unsure of how to pull together the affordable housing requirements for all activity in the city.

Gaskins confirmed this need but explained that she wanted to narrow the lens to individual projects in order to make the issue more manageable. She advocated looking at contributions policy as it relates to conversions.

Steve Malone, a representative for the Old Town Civic Association, said his association seeks to amend this SUP to include an assurance that the future residents know they will not be granted parking permits as part of this permit. According to city parking policy, residents in communities of more than ten units do not receive parking permits if their property is not located in a residential parking area. Fifty percent of the total square footage is nonresidential. He requested that the future tenants are made aware of this limitation. He also stated that he believes the affordable housing units in this SUP are inadequate both because this development is not in a Residential Parking Permit district and because the project lacks adequate open space.

It was pointed out these residents would not be situated in a RPP district, so the parking conditions would not be applicable and these residents would automatically be denied street parking.

Blair explained that this project is engaged in the due diligence period with respect to affordable housing and that his clients are looking at how to use excess garage parking spaces.

Councilor Sarah Bagley opined that this project contributes positively to the community and adds vitality but said if this percentage of affordable housing contributions is a trend, this overall trend should be reexamined. Bagley said she does not want individual projects like this one to be the “fall guy” for the affordable housing situation. Bagley also indicated that while it is nice to fill these vacant spaces, she wants to ensure that the city is getting more out of these projects.

Chapman said that he wants to ensure the affordable housing council is initially more involved in looking at proposed projects and creating guidelines for them.

Mayor Justin Wilson mentioned a previous project in Eisenhower Valley and its impact on sewer connection fee
**JANUARY 28**

**NORTHERN LIGHTS: A SCANDINAVIAN SAVORY SOIREE** Enjoy a concert with a multi-course Scandinavian cuisine and wines. The festivities begin with cocktails, before a dinner of Finnish salmon soup, char and rice pudding with blueberry sauce. There will also be music by Nordic composers such as Jean Sibelius, Edvard Grieg and more.

**Time:** 5 to 9 p.m.
**Location:** 711 Princess St.
**Information:** visitalexandria.com/events/northern-lights-ascandinavian-savory-soiree/

---

**JANUARY 29**

**ALEXANDRIA RESTAURANT WEEK** The last day of Alexandria Restaurant Week 2023 is today. Don’t miss your chance to stop by a few of the more than 70 restaurants offering a $25, $35 or $45 prix fixe dinner for one. Special menus will be available for in-person dining at participating restaurants.

**Time:** All day
**Location:** Varies
**Information:** visitalexandria.com/restaurants/restaurant-week

---

**MAKE YOUR OWN OATMEAL SOAP** Learn how to make oatmeal soap, a good natural exfoliant that’s gentle on skin and leaves it moisturized and refreshed. You’ll leave this workshop with five bars of your own to take home in addition to understanding the science of how to make it.

**Time:** 2 to 4 p.m.
**Location:** 533 Montgomery St.
**Information:** madeinalex.com/product/learn-to-make-oatmeal-soap/2482

---

**FEBRUARY 1**

**THE POWER OF MANIFESTATION** This series will inform and empower you to begin or expand your manifestation journey. Attendees will receive a Blonde Spiritual Millennial Manifestation Journal and Daily Planner. Session is $55 and open to those 18 and up.

**Time:** 7 to 9 p.m.
**Location:** 533 Montgomery St.
**Information:** visitalexandria.com/events/restaurants/restaurant-week

---

**FEBRUARY 3**

**MIND YOUR MANNERS SPECIALTY TOUR** From scandal to social class, balls reveal the political intrigue and power structures that were part of early America. Gadsby’s Tavern will present a specialty tour detailing the history behind George Washington’s Birthnight Ball.

**Time:** 6 to 7 p.m.
**Location:** 134 N. Royal St.
**Information:** visitalexandria.com/events/mind-your-manners-specialty-tour-2

---

**COUNCIL**

**From | 10**

issues as an example of how council wanted to align housing communities with the aims and needs of the city. Wilson reminded council that these units will actually be affordable market rate units due to their size. He emphasized this project is important and will be providing housing in a job-rich environment. He also explained that he did not feel this project even merited a council discussion because of these parameters and because it’s a small project.

Bagley pointed out that these considerations are often the result of previous and historic building decisions and situations because of unique reasons. She spoke to the need for all different size housing within the city. She deferred to Sam Shelby, a principal planner with the City of Alexandria, about why this conversion is currently before council. He described how the commercial zone is now being converted to residential which is why the hearing is required in this instance.

Council closed the discussion and voted to approve the project.

The final item was the public hearing for a zoning project at Stevenson Avenue – Edgewood Towns.

This hearing was intended to consider the requests for a change to the official zoning map of this piece of property from a townhouse zone to a high density apartment zone in order to allow for the construction of a subdivision of seven townhomes with a shared and adjoining driveway leading to parking access and parking spaces.

The applicant, Old Creek Homes LLC, was represented by Duncan Blair. Bill Cook, a representative from the city’s Department of Planning and Zoning, said that the “modest increase in density” might be the only concern to be considered and that this vacant lot had been neglected for 15 years.

He said that if this project did not go through, the rezoning is not transferable. The Planning Commission had previously approved this rezoning during its earlier January meeting. Blair said it is good for the community to have this property redeveloped after 15 years of not being used.

After some discussion, council passed the proposal unanimously.

-jackied8812@gmail.com
A woman with ties to several historic sites in Alexandria has been described as “the wife of three husbands,” “the star of the American stage” and “the most perfect actress America has ever seen.” This is in an age when most women actors were considered damaged goods.

Anne Brunton was born in England in 1769 – one of 14 children in a theatrical family. In 1785, when Anne was 16 years old, she made her stage debut at the famed Covent Garden in London.

After finding fame playing ingénue roles, Anne married poet and amateur playwright Robert Merry in 1791 or 92 – over the protests of his family. Despite Robert’s career path, the stage was considered an undistinguished and disreputable career for a woman. The marriage was a socially advantageous match, although Anne’s husband soon spent all of his inheritance.

In 1793, when Anne was 27, she received an offer from Philadelphia theatre manager Thomas Wignell to come to the United States. The Merrys embarked for the new nation, arriving in New York City in 1796.

Anne’s first leading role at the New Theatre in Philadelphia, later the Chestnut Street Theatre, the first U.S. theatre built solely for paying customers, was Shakespeare’s “Juliet.” After having been billed as “the leading actress at Covent Garden” Anne found success in America. Contradicting stereotypes of the time, she won respect through her business acumen, talent, philanthropy and impeccable manners.

According to Office of Historic Alexandria Museum Educator Kristy Huettner, “(Anne) shot to stardom at Philadelphia’s Chestnut Street Theatre. Her position as the most celebrated actress in the United States was solidified immediately.”

Between 1796 and 1800, she played Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Upon opening at a Georgetown Theatre in 1799, the Georgetown Centinel of Liberty proclaimed Anne “unquestionably, the best serious actress to have ever graced the American stage.”

On Christmas Eve 1798, Robert died in Baltimore. When Anne was 33, she married the man who had invited her to America – Philadelphia theatre manager Wignell. The marriage was short-lived however, and Anne became a widow for a second time when her new husband died seven weeks after their wedding. Anne gave birth to their daughter, Elizabeth, later that year.

Anne’s professional success continued. She had become co-manager of the Chestnut Street Theater when married to Wignell and continued to co-manage until her death. In 1800, the Philadelphia Gazette reported due to great demand, groups of tickets for Anne’s performances were selling for as much as $50. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, $50 in 1800 is equivalent in purchasing power to approximately $1,182.58 today.

In 1803, Anne married fellow actor William Warren in Baltimore. The Warren company played the circuit and the family, including a pregnant Anne and daughter Elizabeth, arrived in Alexandria in 1808 for Robert’s production at a theatre on Cameron Street. The couple had arranged to rent a house in the city. As they awaited the delivery of furniture for their rental, the Warrens stayed at the nearby City Hotel, which is now part of Gadsby’s Tavern Museum at the corner of North Royal and Cameron Streets.

Thirty-nine year old Anne never lived at her Alexandria rental home – she died in her City Hotel guest room on June 28, 1808, now known as Gadsby’s Tavern.

Huettner explains, “Anne’s husband was busy preparing for their theatre company’s summer presentation of “The Country Girl” just up the street when Anne fell ill, eventually delivered a stillborn son, rallied temporarily, and then was cast into a feverish delirium from which she never recovered.”

Childbirth claimed the lives of many women of every social class in the 18th and 19th centuries. Anne is buried in the churchyard of Christ Church in Alexandria.

The obituary in the New York Commercial Advertiser described Anne as having “unrivalled excellence in her profession and unsullied fame.” Anne Brunton Merry Wignell Warren used the footlights to pave the way for women in business and the arts. The first actress of eminence to cross the Atlantic – considered the most revered actress of her day – her final curtain was here in Alexandria. Bravo, Anne.

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.
The basics of borrowing

Nontraditional loans may offer solutions for unique needs
BY ELIZABETH LUCCHESI

What is a nontraditional mortgage?
A nontraditional mortgage is a loan that doesn’t have a standard amortization schedule or payment installments. Common characteristics of nontraditional mortgages include flexible repayment terms, less strict qualification requirements and the option to defer principal or interest payments.

Private mortgage lenders, like businesses or home sellers, issue nontraditional mortgages rather than financial institutions.

Types of nontraditional mortgages

Balloon loans
A mortgage that operates on a lump-sum payment schedule is called a balloon loan.

Depending on the terms, you may pay only interest for the life of your loan and make one big principal payment at the end, or a combination of interest and principal, with a smaller lump sum due at the end.

Advantages of these loans include low monthly payments and the freedom of cash flow for other investments. Homeowners who know they won’t be in a house very long or those with the resources to pay the lump sum quickly may consider a balloon loan.

Interest-only mortgage
An interest-only mortgage allows interest-only payments for some or all of the term, with the principal balance unchanged during the interest-only period. After that, the loan balance begins amortizing, which can significantly increase monthly payments.

Most interest-only loans are called ARMs, meaning that the interest rate will be adjusted a specified number of times each year, causing monthly payments to fluctuate.

An ARM is structured by the number of years interest-only payments are due, followed by how often the interest rate will be adjusted. For example, a “5 / 6” ARM has a fixed interest rate for the first five years, after which the interest rate can change every six months.

Payment-Option ARMs
A payment-option ARM adjusts monthly and allows borrowers to decide how to repay the loan. Several payment options are available, including 15, 30, or four-year fully amortizing, minimum-and-over-based, and interest-only payments.

Traditional, nontraditional, and nonconforming

Traditional mortgages, also known as conventional mortgages, have straightforward terms. The borrower finances a set amount of money from a lender at an interest rate, fixed or variable, and then makes payments toward the principal and interest for a set amount of time until the loan balance is paid.

Often confused, nontraditional and nonconforming loans are not the same — though nontraditional loans are almost always nonconforming.

Many non-conforming loans, such as FHA and VA loans, operate like conventional mortgages in terms of repayment model and schedule. The defining difference is that nonconforming loans don’t meet Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac’s standards for purchase. They typically have lower requirements for credit scores and debt to income ratios.

Nontraditional loans don’t conform to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac’s standards and have atypical repayment schedules.

The bottom line

Nontraditional mortgages can be attractive because they offer flexible payment terms for financing a short-term investment and unique situations requiring low upfront costs. This flexibility becomes a considerable risk when paired with higher rates and a borrower needing more resources to pay up.

Before making any real estate or financing decisions, lean into the advice of an experienced realtor and a lender you know and trust. These professionals should clearly explain the loan terms and the best options for your situation.

The information provided here is not investment or financial advice.

The writer is the founder of the LizLuke team at Long & Foster Real Estate. She is also a buyer and seller agent.
Christine Sennott and Fred Theobald’s home was originally intended to be a cigar shop when it was first built in 1908.

From the ground up

Couple rebuilds old cigar shop into space-efficient oasis

By OLIVIA ANDERSON

By the looks of it, Christine Sennott and Fred Theobald’s Payne Street home could sell pipes, lighters and a bevy of tobacco products. Not only does it have the word “cigars” plastered across the outside wall in bold lettering, but at night the front window illuminates an inside sign of the original 1908 permit that explains the building’s intended use: a cigar shop.

Stepping inside the house, however, reveals a much different scene. The cozy, intimate home is instead a beloved living space, featuring a bright kitchen with repurposed wood, a covered pergola and outdoor patio, and two Australian shepherds romping around happily. It is very much not a cigar shop, but one of Sennott’s main goals with the home was to honor its century-plus-spanning origins.

“I love history; I love repurposing,” Sennott said.

Although the couple’s Payne Street home is now fully finished – they even rent it out on Airbnb on weekends they’re away – it once looked much different and involved a total demolition. And the process of finding the perfect place was not simple.

The couple moved to Alexandria in 2010 and stayed in a rental for several years. When they began looking for a home of their own in 2014, they were armed with a very specific checklist. Because Theobald is 6’8”, fitting through doorways and in showers is somewhat complicated and therefore limits housing options. Plus, the couple is what Sennott refers
to as “tiny livers,” so they did not want a space that was too large. They also desired a living room located in the rear of the house that opened to the back yard to allow for indoor-outdoor living.

Four years into the search, Sennott came across a listing in Old Town that included an expansive single-story studio with a folded-up Murphy bed, attic space and door leading to the back yard. Deciding that the space itself was optimal but the layout was not, Sennott and Theobald decided to tear down nearly the entire house and build their own.

The only part the couple kept was the front wall, due to its historic significance and salvageability. Today, half of the front wall is original and the bottom half is HardiePlank. The rest of the home was completely rebuilt; the couple installed helical piles for support, added new walls and created a second story.

But there was a caveat. Because the house was located in the Parker-Gray Historic District, it was protected and regulated by the Board of Architectural Review and the couple was thus restricted from making significant exterior alterations.

With the help of Kulinski Group Architects, a local architectural firm that was familiar with the city, they found a solution.

“Our architect came up with a really creative idea. They said, ‘Look, so long as we can’t see the addition from the street, so long as you don’t change the integrity of the view, you can do what you want,’” Sennott recalled. “... And so collaboratively, we came up with these ideas on how we could get what we wanted and still maintain the historical integrity and keep everybody happy without having to get approval.”

The solution involved a setback for the second story,
meaning that the window of the second story is "set back" from the front wall and is not visible from the street. This would allow for both the front of the home to look exactly like it did before it was torn down and for a second story to exist without breaching BAR regulations.

During the research process, Sennott discovered the original permit from 1908. She discovered that her new home was initially a wood-base property purchased for $200 and intended to be a cigar shop. Instead of throwing away the permit, Sennott had it blown up on the wall of what is now the office. At night, the street-facing window illuminates the sign for passersby to see.

Named after the Parker-Gray School established in 1920, the Parker-Gray Historic

SEE HOMES | 20 Sennott found the home's original permit and had it blown up on a wall.

Make Your Home Less Hectic and More of a Haven

These days many people's homes are teeming with activity, with everyone in each other's way half the time. Tensions are high. Tempers are short.

Fix it with a full or partial remodel — always a good investment when it furthers your family's enjoyment and relaxation.

We do complete kitchen remodeling in record time. We don’t dawdle in your home. We are always Covid-safe. We’ll build a full wall of built-ins with workstations in one day! M&M partners with licensed, insured General Contractors who are consummate professionals and master carpenters. Please give us the opportunity to earn your business.

Please send inquiries to roryc@mandmappliance.com or call or text Rory 301-537-3515

WE ♥ ALEXANDRIA!
817 S. WASHINGTON ST.
ALEXANDRIA, VA 23314
(703) 299-0092
GOODWIN, GREAT CHOICES

Goodwin Living has been redefining aging since 1967. Nonprofit and faith-based, we serve our mission to support, honor and uplift the lives of older adults and those who care for them. We know that every individual has unique needs, wants and desires, so we offer a full range of senior living and healthcare services throughout Northern Virginia.

703.293.5326 | GoodwinLiving.org
VISIT THE VIEW ALEXANDRIA - NOW A GOODWIN LIVING COMMUNITY!

GREAT VALUE
Located in the west end of Alexandria, The View Alexandria by Goodwin Living™ features a seven-acre campus nestled atop a hill with expansive views of Washington, D.C. from the top floors of our buildings. Acquired by Goodwin Living in August, The View Alexandria features a value-priced rental model.

GREAT LIFESTYLE
The View Alexandria features amenities and activities to keep you vibrant and purposeful:
• Wellness and exercise program with access to a heated pool
• On-campus events, activities, programs and clubs
• Special off-campus trips and excursions
• Beautiful indoor and outdoor spaces
• Friendly neighbors and staff

GREAT FLOOR PLANS
We have something for everyone!
• Well-appointed studios
• One bedroom apartments
• Spacious two-bedroom apartments

MOVE IN BY MARCH 31, 2023. UNPACK OVER $3,000 IN SAVINGS.

Contact us today to lock in this limited-time offer.
703.293.5326 | TheViewAlexandria.org
5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria, VA 22311 (conveniently off Beauregard St.)
District was once a haven for escaped enslaved people. When determining how to display the “cigars” sign, Sennott knew there likely was not any “fancy signage” given the timeframe in which it was originally built. “Through process of elimination, we figured they probably would have had a painted sign so we had a local artist come in and do something to pay homage,” Sennott said, adding that occasionally people will stop by thinking that the house is an actual cigar shop.

The pair honored their home’s history in other ways, too. They found the original support beams during the demolition, which are now repurposed throughout the house. The kitchen shelves, wood bar and feature wall in the bathroom all include repurposed wood. Sennott will host an open house brunch on Feb. 26 to further explain the home’s history and renovation.

The kitchen merges into the living room, which has high ceilings custom made to fit Theobald. Stark white French doors then open to a covered pergola and outdoor patio, replete with a garden and turf play area for the pups. Though Sennott and Theobald are minimalists by nature, they also had to be mindful of BAR regulations — which meant they could not add additional square footage to the home without earning approval. So, they instead distributed the nearly 900 square feet of the original house throughout the top and bottom floors. The effort involved a great deal of creativity, Sennott noted.

“In our house, everything we have serves multiple purposes. So, we don’t have four sets of anything, we have one set,” she said. “Everything has to do more than one thing, because you don’t want to have too much stuff. … We feel that for the size of the house and the demographic that lives here, this is all we need.”

The space under the stairs, for instance, is a full pantry instead of its intended use as a utility closet. Upstairs, one of the rooms doubles as an office space and bedroom. A big Murphy bed folds down on weekends for Airbnb guests, and a work desk folds up during the week for Theobald.

The other room has three large windows that peer out eight feet to the parapet visible from the street. Underneath the space between the bedroom and the parapet is ample storage space underneath what would have been eight extra square feet of living space.
a heater and ample storage space.

“We took full advantage of [these] eight feet that I lost from [the] square foot of living space, but made it usable,” Sennott said. “There’s no wasted space in this house.”

For Sennott, who is a realtor by day, the process of building a home from the ground up was as much about creating a space to live as it was an exciting project to take on.

“My mind just works this way. I don’t see what’s there, I see potential. I’m like, ‘It can look like this, it can look like that!’” Sennott said. “It was so much fun.”

-oanderson@alextimes.com

The couple’s living room leads into the back yard patio to allow for indoor-outdoor living space.

---

**HOME OF THE WEEK**

Hidden gem in Collingwood Springs

The perfect home in a wonderful neighborhood! This home is move-in ready with hardwood floors throughout the upper level, granite countertops, a new dishwasher, a new refrigerator, updated main level bathroom and fresh paint throughout. Enjoy grilling on the back deck while kids play in the fenced in backyard. The lower level great room has loads of space. There are three bedrooms on the main level and one bedroom downstairs. This place is great for a home office. It also features a large work room and laundry room with a door to the backyard. Kids can walk to elementary and middle school! There are community recreation centers with swimming, tennis and parks, and the home is very close to Fort Hunt Park. This neighborhood is a hidden gem close to all D.C. has to offer. Hop on the George Washington Parkway to The Pentagon, Old Town, D.C. and so much more! The airport is only 11 miles away and Huntington Metro is only seven miles away. Enjoy a walk or bike ride along the Potomac River.

**AT A GLANCE**

- **Address:** 8322 Stockade Dr., Alexandria, 22308
- **Neighborhood:** Collingwood Springs
- **Price:** $699,900
- **Square feet:** 2,272
- **Bedrooms:** 4
- **Bathrooms:** 2
- **Year built:** 1966

**Contact:**
Tracy Vitali
Coldwell Banker Realty
TracyVitali.com
904-505-1874

---

**HOMES ADVERTORIAL**

We’re booking interior painting projects for February and March! Call us now for a **FREE** estimate! 703-684-7702
My View | Denise Dunbar

Gary Oelze: An appreciation

BY DENISE DUNBAR

When my husband and I entered the Birchmere one evening in early 1993 to hear one of our favorite artists, Jerry Jeff Walker, perform his Texas outlaw mix of raucous honky-tonk and sweet ballads, little did we realize how entertaining that night was to be.

As the hall began filling up, we noticed that a table in a prime location was empty and had a “reserved” sign on top. That was unusual, as there is no reserved seating at the Birchmere. Rumors began swirling that new Vice President Al Gore was going to attend. Jerry Jeff launched into his show, and a couple of numbers in there was a furious rustling throughout the hall. We looked up to see President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary Rodham Clinton, along with Gore and his wife Tipper Gore, move through the crowd to the waiting empty table.

The rest of the evening we listened to Jerry Jeff, but mostly watched the presidential table, where a steady stream of mostly women from the audience greeted the president, who happily – though quietly because there’s no talking in the Birchmere while shows are ongoing – obliged. We were amused. From her expression, it appeared that Hillary was less so.

On another outing at the Birchmere, we went to see singer/songwriter/guitarist Joan Armatrading, who I had discovered in college when a local record store gave away a 45 rpm record with two of her songs. While we knew her as a neo-folk singer with standards like “Water with the Wine,” she had reinvented herself into an outrageous blues guitarist. We were simply astounded by her prowess that night.

In early 1996, I read a review about a new artist named Gillian Welch, who grew up in California but had a haunting, Appalachian-inspired style. In rapid order I bought her CD, “Revival,” and went to see her at the Birchmere. The spare sound of Welch and guitarist David Rawlings left an enduring impression.

In 2009, for my husband’s 50th birthday, I worked with Birchmere staff to throw a surprise party for him featuring the band The Outlaws. (If you’ve never heard “Green Grass and High Tides Forever,” queue it up on Spotify right now.) They were able to keep the cost down for the party by also booking The Outlaws to play the next night, and, yes, my husband wound up on stage singing with the band before the night was over. What a treat!

Before, between and since those four nights, I’ve been to many dozens of shows at the Birchmere.

This treasure was the brain-child of Gary Oelze, who died on Monday at age 80. Oelze began offering regular music at the original Birchmere restaurant in Arlington in the mid-1970s. The Birchmere outgrew that location by 1981, and Oelze moved it to Alexandria, at 3901 Mt. Vernon Ave., which is where the President Clinton concert took place. In 1997, Oelze moved the Birchmere two blocks down the street to its current spot at 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave.

It’s difficult to overstate the significance of the Birchmere as a music venue – not just in Alexandria or the Washington DMV, but nationally.

In my tenure at the Times, I’ve had the opportunity to interview a handful of artists who were coming to Alexandria to perform at the Birchmere. From Emily Saliers of The Indigo Girls to Michael Timmons of Cowboy Junkies to Ellie and Drew Holcomb to Suzanne Vega, they’ve all raved about how much they enjoyed performing at the Birchmere and how much they appreciated the support of Gary and longtime staff members like Michael Jaworek and Ben Finkelstein.

Oelze created something special that has endured in Alexandria for almost a half century.

The music that has echoed through the Birchmere and the legends – living and dead – who have graced its stages have been a gift to the many thousands of Birchmere devotees. Catching a glimpse of your favorite artist’s personality, hearing a beloved song performed live or feeling the electricity when a virtuoso gives their very best performance – those are priceless treasures for which we have Oelze to thank. RIP.

Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson

Photo of the Week

The tribute to Birchmere owner Gary Oelze, who died Monday, through the sign in the entryway to the music hall’s parking lot.

My View | Frank Putzu

Duke Street denialism

BY FRANK PUTZU

Seemingly against the wishes of residents throughout the West End, the City of Alexandria appears to be moving full speed ahead on the Duke Street in Motion project, which has been estimated to cost as much as $116 million. This initiative would result in two bus rapid transit lanes down the middle of that busy corridor for 4.5 miles between Landmark and Carlyle, purportedly to reduce commute times for bus riders.

Despite two significant efforts by a city survey consultant to “reach” the community, there just does not seem to be much support for the project. The city commissioned consulting firm RHI in 2021 to solicit public input. RHI specializes in reaching communities it says are difficult to reach and did so for this survey.

The consultants went to extraordinary lengths in their first survey to solicit input from the public. They received about 2,000 comments from a broad cross-section of residents. But there was a problem with the results. The pub-

SEE PUTZU | 23
lic input did not support the city’s primary objective of reducing travel time through BRT bus lanes.

In fact, 64% of all road users surveyed identified reducing congestion as the top priority. Only 26% supported dedicated bus lanes. Strangely, the survey report dismissed and disparaged its own results – and the public that produced the comments – complaining about respondents by race, ethnicity, income and housing status.

Because the first survey did not produce the desired support for BRT, and after more than a year of “educating” the public, the city commissioned RHI to perform a second survey in 2022. The objective was to find more people who would support the project’s concept.

In order to achieve the city’s desired result the second time around, the survey consultants tilted the playing field to steer responses. It dropped any questions regarding congestion and safety, and did not inform the participant that, in multiple sections of the corridor, current design proposals would mean non-bus vehicles lose access to two full travel lanes – one in each direction. About 1,300 participants provided feedback form responses.

The ploy didn’t work.

The results of the second survey aligned with those of the first. Even with false hidden assumptions, only 27% of residents providing feedback forms strongly agreed to support improved bus service at the expense of “slightly” more traffic delay – doubtful since two full lanes would be lost – while 53% outright opposed it, with 42% strongly opposed. Only 12% supported dedicated bus lanes.

When asked to provide written comments outside the multiple-choice questions, residents’ top priorities were once again congestion and safety.

The second report again discredited its own results, citing disproportionate participation, e.g.,

That is desperation but it’s certainly not reflective of serious survey work.

In the end, the report’s claim that other residents – who they could neither identify nor locate twice, at great expense and effort – exist somewhere is ludicrous. Also ridiculous is the assertion that these other residents would unanimously share the city and contractors’ desired outcome of two BRT lanes down the middle of Duke Street. This exercise is yet another reminder that city hall views the public it serves as unworthy of its government.

What’s worse is the city’s ongoing strategy to predicate change on fake notions of different preferences along racial and class lines. The city should stop this inappropriate and divisive practice, which is also factually incorrect and desperate.

It appears city leaders don’t understand their own residents. Alexandrians have seen way too much of this city hall rhetoric in the last few years.

So, Alexandrians have now spoken with one voice supporting congestion relief and safety on Duke Street, but not BRT. Instead of manipulating public engagement through slanted surveys and gaslighting us about the results, perhaps the city can actually hear what residents have told them – twice.

The writer is a West End resident.

Poor Robert's Ruminations

New BIZ-ness

BY ROB WHITTLE

Every business is competitive. From street vendors to aerospace companies to car dealers to hair salons, capitalism requires that the winners provide the very best service at the very best value. Make no mistake – there is no second place in a business competition. There's the winner, and there's everyone else.

I once attended a seminar on personal profiling, a sort of Myers-Briggs lite. The presenter was a big, charming loud fellow with a severe Richmond accent by the name of Stuart Sanders. He began to describe a case study wherein an agency foolishly presented a “nuts and bolts” strategy to a prospect who was only interested in the flash and dash of the big picture. The prospect chose an agency who plastered the walls with big-idea concepts. I realized that the chump who was the loser was me. Literally, he was using my agency as the Don’t-Do-This cautionary tale.

Naturally, I signed our agency up for Stuart’s personality profiling course, and it changed the way we presented to new biz prospects. The basis of this training is to identify a prospect’s personality and attendant biases by certain “tells” that we all exhibit, and then to place them in one of four personality quadrants. For example, if a prospect is a “Logo,” that means he/she needs to get to know you a bit before plunging into business matters. A “Headline,” on the other hand, is someone who doesn’t need a lot of chit chat and wants to get to it. You get the idea.

A couple of years after meeting Stuart, he invited me to be one of the speakers in London for what he billed as “The greatest new business summit in the world!”

It seemed that Stuart was violating his own training by coming on so strong to the typically understated British. Prior to the event, he was profiled extensively in the British trade press and was characterized as a big, brash ugly American whose hucksterism was antithetical to British sensibilities. He was likely to be hooted off the stage. Such press only served to pump up attendance as Stuart became a curiosity that was not to be missed.

When the big day at last arrived, I wondered if Stuart would adapt his approach to better suit his audience as his own training would dictate. But when the lights were turned down, a searchlight flitted across the crowd only to land on Stuart striding up the center aisle to take his place on the stage. All six feet five inches and two hundred eighty pounds of him was clad in a white linen three-piece suit complete with spats for shoes. I certainly had my answer about whether he would tone it down.

I’ll always remember his opening line, spoken in that deep Richmond accent, “Hi, I’m Stuart Sanders and I looooove new BIZ-ness!” A collective gasp arose from the crowd. No one had ever seen such a figure with such joie de vivre for his topic. He proceeded to charm the knickers off those Brits for the next hour, generating headlines in the trade press like “Big American Takes London By Storm.”

What’s the moral of this story? Maybe it’s “To thine own self be true.”

The writer is CEO of Williams Whittle Advertising and is the author of two historical novels, “Pointer’s War” and “Pointer and the Russian.”
What did Alexandrians do for fun when the Potomac froze over? An article in the Oct. 30, 1922, Alexandria Gazette sheds light on the answer, and hockey was not part of it. Instead, the author reminisced about large-scale participation in a now-forgotten sport: ice boat racing.

The author S.A. Breen reminisced:

“During the winter months the crews of the ‘Down East’ schooners that were ‘frozen in,’ would build ice boats and sail them over the ice at a-mile-a-minute speed. It was a dangerous sport, but the ‘Yanks’ enjoyed it.”

The National Park Service website contextualizes this sport more than the article. Initially, ice sailing had pragmatic roots as the Dutch who colonized the New World attached metal and wood runners to the bottoms of wooden-hulled working boats. In the Hudson River Valley, the boats were redesigned with light frames and used cast iron skates or runners to glide on the ice. Ship crews from the northern parts of the United States, whose ships were stuck in the Potomac, most likely brought the ice boat designs with them to Alexandria.

The National Park Service corroborates the author Breen’s assessment of the speed the ice boats were capable of, commenting, “Even in a modest breeze, these boats could reach speeds of 75 miles per hour.” The inventor Robert Livingston even attacked a British warship frozen in Lake Champlain during the War of 1812 with an ice boat loaded with explosives.

In his younger days, Franklin Delano Roosevelt enjoyed ice boat racing. Roosevelt’s uncle John was a champion ice yacht racer, and FDR’s mother gave him an ice yacht for Christmas, which he named HAWK. The boat is now part of the museum collection at the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site.

Time has altered much about winters in Alexandria. The Potomac is rarely frozen solid, and ships from New York rarely spend winters on our shores. The look on the sailors’ faces in this image from the Library of Congress looks to be a mixture of exhilaration and terror that we no longer associate with the sport that S.A. Breen remembered so fondly.

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

Weekly Poll

**Last Week**

What do you think is the most serious non-COVID-19 public health issue right now?

- 52% Mental health
- 29% Opioid abuse
- 8% Diabetes
- 7% Hypertension
- 3% STIs

**This Week**

Have you been to the Birchmere?

- A) Yes, many times!
- B) Yes, once or twice.
- C) No.
- D) I’m not familiar with the Birchmere.
THE LITTLE THINGS by Stella Zawistowski, edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS
1 5Ks, say (6)
2 Lip-___ (“sing” like a drag queen) (5)
3 Go bad (5)
4 Absolutely stunned (6)
5 Biggest continent (7)
6 Biblical food from the sky (7)
7 Hollywood boss’s breaded chicken piece? (7)
8 Deplete (9)
9 Some first responders (Abbr.) (4)
10 “But still...” (5)
11 Pic taker (7)
12 Ramirez of “Grey’s Anatomy” (7)
13 At no cost (6)
14 Flyer about pancake syrup? (6)
15 Hair-removal brand (7)
16 ACCustom (to) (7)
17 Wash up against (8)
18 Tropical root made into fries (8)
19 Short moment? (4)
20 Way to listen in on calls (7)
21 Singer of “Team” and “Tennis Court” (7)
22 “___-daisy!” (5)
23 “Attack, Bowser!” (5)
24 Took a load off (6)
25 Rive Gauche designer, for short (5)
26 Nephew’s sister (7)
27 Language spoken in eastern Spain (9)
28 Mustangs’ Texas sch. (7)
29 One who saves the day (7)
30 “Havenly” Beyonce hit from 2008 (8)
31 Title on a base (8)
32 Bag hookup in a hospital (7)
33 Workshop clamp (7)
34 “I’m not listening!” (5)
35 Summer attraction (5)
36 “Gesundheit!” lead-in (5)
37 “Cease-fire” (5)
38 Can’t help but (6)
39 Red parts of Louboutin shoes (7)
40 Fictional sunken island (7)
41 Roller coaster feature (7)
42 Summer clock setting, for short (7)
43 Go bad (6)
44Computerized objects (7)
45 Room (4)
46 Title film for “The Prince & Me” (4)
47 Good or bad signs (6)
48 Anthony Hopkins’ quote (4)
49 Text to a late person (6)
50 “ur 2 funny” (5)
51 Takes the camera (5)
52 The “I” in NYU (Abbr.) (9)
53 Tibetan priest (11)
54 Critic’s write-up (5)
55 Sources of milk for feta (5)
56 “Field” (Mets’ stadium) (12)
57 Observe surreptitiously (5)
58 “Como ___ usted?” (5)
59 Baby bird’s place (7)
60 AMA members (8)
61 Hair-removal brand (5)
62 Hairdresser (5)
63 Small town in the Old Dominion? (7)
64 A la ___ menu (5)
65 Chocolatey Starbucks orders (5)
66 “Field” (Mets’ stadium) (7)
67 Moroccan ceramic (7)
68 Bubbly bar mixer (5)
69 Name related to Liz (5)
70 Baby’s place (7)
71 Songwriter for “Team” and “Tennis Court” (8)
72 Put a full stop before a sentence (9)
73 Points the camera (5)
74 “I’d like some suds!” (5)
75 One way to predict a coin toss (8)
76 “Gesundheit!” lead-in (5)
77 “Cease-fire” (5)
78 “ur 2 funny” (5)
79 AMA members (8)
80 Put a full stop before a sentence (9)
81 “I’m not listening!” (5)
82 One who saves the day (7)
83 One way to predict a coin toss (8)
84 “I’m not listening!” (5)
85 AMA members (8)
86 Put a full stop before a sentence (9)
87 “I’m not listening!” (5)
88 One who saves the day (7)
89 One way to predict a coin toss (8)
90 “I’m not listening!” (5)
91 “I’m not listening!” (5)
92 One who saves the day (7)
93 One way to predict a coin toss (8)
94 “I’m not listening!” (5)
95 One who saves the day (7)
96 One way to predict a coin toss (8)
97 “I’m not listening!” (5)
98 One who saves the day (7)
99 One way to predict a coin toss (8)
100 One who saves the day (7)
101 One way to predict a coin toss (8)
102 One who saves the day (7)
103 One way to predict a coin toss (8)
104 One who saves the day (7)
105 One way to predict a coin toss (8)
106 One who saves the day (7)
107 One way to predict a coin toss (8)
108 One who saves the day (7)
109 One way to predict a coin toss (8)
110 One who saves the day (7)
111 One way to predict a coin toss (8)
112 One who saves the day (7)
113 One way to predict a coin toss (8)
114 One who saves the day (7)
115 One way to predict a coin toss (8)
116 One who saves the day (7)
117 One way to predict a coin toss (8)
118 One who saves the day (7)
119 One way to predict a coin toss (8)
120 One who saves the day (7)

Solutions from last week

DEATH NOTICES

MOLLIE ALEXANDER (91), formerly of Alexandria, Jan. 18, 2023
FRANCIS ARNOLD (78), formerly of Alexandria, Jan. 19, 2023
THOMAS BOYLE (86), of Alexandria, Jan. 18, 2023
ANNE CABANISS (93), of Alexandria, Jan. 19, 2023
PAUL FROMMER (97), of Alexandria, Jan. 21, 2023
GEORGE PARA (93), of Alexandria, Jan. 17, 2023
BARBARA SPAHR (97), of Alexandria, Jan. 17, 2023
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

NEED TO PLACE AN AD?
CONTACT:
Margaret Stevens
mstevens@alextimes.com

Upgrade Your Home with a
NEW METAL ROOF
Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!

Made in the USA

Call today to schedule your
FREE ESTIMATE
1-844-902-4611

LEAD TIME OFFER
60% off your installation
+ Take an additional
10% off
Installs for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

The Generac PWRecell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. $0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-833-688-1378

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - $500 Discount + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-850-902-4611


The bathroom of your dreams for as little as $149/month! BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now and SAVE 15%! Call Today! 1-844-945-1631

Generac Standby Generators
Prepare now. Free 7-year extended warranty ($695 value!). Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-833-688-1378

Limted Time Offer:
Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

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

NEED TO PLACE AN AD?
CONTACT:
Margaret Stevens
mstevens@alextimes.com

Upgrade Your Home with a
NEW METAL ROOF
Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!

Made in the USA

Call today to schedule your
FREE ESTIMATE
1-844-902-4611

LEAD TIME OFFER
60% off your installation
+ Take an additional
10% off
Installs for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

The Generac PWRecell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. $0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-833-688-1378

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - $500 Discount + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-850-902-4611


The bathroom of your dreams for as little as $149/month! BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now and SAVE 15%! Call Today! 1-844-945-1631
LEGAL NOTICE
ALEXANDRIA PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

The following requests have been received for administrative review and approval.

For information on the following applications or to comment, visit the City’s website at www.alexandriava.gov/planning or call (703) 746-4666.

Special Use Permit #2023-00003
5236 Fillmore Avenue
Administrative Special Use Permit request for a New Use for a Child Care Home; zoned: R12/Residential
Single Family
Business Name:
Allstate Express LLC
Applicant: Waleed Syed
Planner: Mavis Stanfield – mavis.stanfield@alexandriava.gov

In accordance with Section 11-500 of the Zoning Ordinance, the above listed request may be approved administratively by the Director of Planning & Zoning. If you have any comments regarding the proposal above, please contact Planning & Zoning staff at 703.746.4666 or email the planner listed no later than February 16, 2023.

LEGAL NOTICE
ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION & CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 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
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023
7:00 PM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023
9:30 AM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

The February 7, 2023 Alexandria Planning Commission Public Hearing and the February 25, 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_x3RAELiQ-4aa-B8spWSA
Webinar ID: 947 8356 3835
Password: 391839

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.

Zoning Text Amendment #2022-00015
King Street Outdoor Dining sidewalk use permit validity dates
(A) Initiation of a Text Amendment; and (B) Public Hearing and consideration of a Text Amendment to change the permit validity dates for King Street Outdoor Dining on public sidewalks from April 1 - March 31 to October 1 - September 31.
Staff: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning & Zoning.

Zoom Audio Conference:
Dial in: 301-715-8592
Webinar ID: 391839
Password: 391839

Special Use Permit #2022-10020
Transportation Management Plan Special Use Permit #2022-00104 Special Use Permit (Restaurant) #2022-00105 Special Use Permit (Medical Care Facility) #2022-00115 Special Use Permit (Athletic Club/ Fitness Facility) #2022-00116
989 and 999 North Henry Street - Samuel Madden Homes
Public Hearing and consideration of requests for (A) amendment to the Braddock Road Metro Station Small Area Plan through the Braddock East Master Plan overlay to update the Land Use and Development Framework Tables; (B) amendment to the official zoning map to change the zone for the site from RB/ Townhouse zone to RMF/Residential multifamily zone; (C) a Development Special Use Permit and Site Plan modification to construct two mixed-income multifamily buildings on two blocks with 532 units and ground floor retail and day care center, including Special Use Permits to increase the floor area ratio to 3.0 in the RMF zone, for the utilization of Section 7-700 for Bonus Height and Density for the provision of affordable housing and a modification to the crown coverage requirement; (D) a Special Use Permit for a Transportation Management Plan; (E) a Special Use Permit for a restaurant with outdoor dining; (F) a Special Use Permit for a medical care facility; (G) a Special Use Permit for a health or athletic club or fitness facility; zoned RB/ Townhouse zone.
Staff: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning and Zoning.

Special Use Permit #2022-00106
Residenz Public Hearing and consideration of a request for (A) an amendment to the official zoning map to change the zone for the property from RA/Multifamily zone to RPF/Multifamily zone; and (B) a Development Special Use Permit to construct a new multifamily residential building including a Special Use Permit to increase the floor area ratio to 3.0 in the RPF zone; and (C) Special Use Permit for a Transportation Management Plan; zoned RA/ Multifamily zone.
Applicant: Community Lodgings, Inc., represented by Mary Catherine Gibbs, attorney

Development Site Plan #2021-00016
4 East Oak Street and 7 East Chapman Street
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Development Site Plan with modifications to construct additions to an existing church building; zoned R-2-5/Single- and two-family zone.
Applicant: Redeemed Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ

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) 656-1810
We do not repair damaged floors

CUSTOM STORAGE SHEDS
Keith’s custom built storage sheds built to your specifications. No permit required anything under 15 x 20 10 ft. tall. Rough to finish carpentry and painting. 703-863-7567.
JOIN LISA GROOVER AT SARA CAMPBELL TO

Shop & Support

THE BOARD OF LADY MANAGERS

Wednesday, February 1, 2023 | 10am – 7:30pm | Sips & Bites 5 – 7:30pm
Sara Campbell | 320 Prince Street, Alexandria | saracampbell.com

Enjoy first pick on deeply discounted Warehouse Sale deals and 10% off all full price items. Sara Campbell will donate 10% of the event’s proceeds to The Board of Lady Managers, a humanitarian organization to serve unmet medical needs in Alexandria.

Shop any time throughout the day and don't forget to mention the Board of Lady Managers!

Can't join us? Call 703.996.9074 to place an order.

Lisa Groover

REaltor® | $10+ Million in 2022
NVAR Platinum Top Producer | Licensed in VA
m 703.919.4426 | LGroover@McEnearney.com | LisaGroover.com

109 S. Pitt St, Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.549.9292 | McEnearney.com | Equal Housing Opportunity