The Lord Fairfax House is one of the most intact homes of the colonial federal period.

Century hopping

How easements preserve times past
BY SUSAN HORNE

The Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission can help residents become preservationists while living a comfortable life with all the modern amenities.

The commission was established in 1962 to preserve the City of Alexandria’s built heritage by taking and holding easements on the interiors of historic homes, on facades and on open spaces in the Old and Historic District. An easement essentially prevents the destruction of significant interior elements of a home or its façade.

An open space easement protects the gardens surrounding a historic home from encroachment. There are many places in the city that introduce the concept of successful preservation. Some homes date to the late 18th century, while other interiors reveal a fully preserved Victorian home.

Alexandria is a historic and longstanding community, with its earliest homes and churches dating to the late 18th century. While some houses are quite grand and others modest but

Missing city resident found

Kilee Kamali had been gone since Dec. 15
BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

Following weeks of searching, an Alexandria man who went missing on Dec. 15, Kilee “Kyle” Kamali, has been found. He was recently taken off a ventilator at a hospital in Washington, D.C., where he’s spent the last few days recovering.

Kamali went missing on Dec. 15, and after his mother, Julie Oliveri, posted in local neighborhood groups seeking help in locating her son, Kamali’s story spread through social media like wildfire. He was found unconscious but alive on Dec. 30, and is now expected to make a full recovery.

“It was amazing. There were just thousands of people looking for him, and actually I can say thousands because it was thousands. It floored me,” Oliveri said. “… Gratefulness doesn’t seem to capture how I really feel, but it’s quite an incredible feeling.”

Oliveri first realized her son was missing on Dec. 19, 2022, after he abruptly stopped responding to phone calls and text messages. Filled with uneasiness, Oliveri stopped by his Belle Haven apartment that day to check in. The apartment was empty, aside from his dog, Zelda Jane, who did not have food or water. Aware of how important Zelda Jane was to Kamali – “she’s his love,” Oliveri said – and the fact that he has bipolar disorder, she decided to contact law enforcement.

“I knew something was very wrong at that time, and so that’s when I called 911,” Oliveri recalled.

Oliveri filed a missing persons report, but police said that because Kamali was a 28-year-old man and only missing for several days at that point, they couldn’t yet

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New Year, New Home Trends

Our Alexandria real estate experts are sharing some of their predictions for 2023 home trends. We hope you enjoy our selections and won’t hesitate to get in touch should you need any additional recommendations or real estate assistance.

Eco-Conscious Design

“We predict that eco-conscious design will be the home trend of 2023! Eco-design is not only more friendly for our planet but also helps lower utility bill costs. From the use of natural textiles that are biodegradable and contain less toxins to organic zero VOC paints and energy-efficient appliances, eco-friendly design is making us healthier, saving us cash, and is thankfully a trend that is here to stay.”

— The Goodhart Group

Accessory Dwelling Units

“Accessory dwelling units also known as ADUs are secondary, independent living units that typically have a separate kitchen, sleeping area and bathroom. In Alexandria, ADUs can assume different forms including basement apartments, converted garages or new structures detached from a primary residence. ADUs can bring in rental income that helps cover housing costs as well as provide on-site housing options for multi-generational families, live-in childcare providers and other caretakers.”

— Homes of Alexandria Team

Wallpaper

“The new peel and stick papers allow you to beautifully transform your space without the long term commitment. Go bold in the powder room with color or subtle in the hallway with texture. Wallpaper is more exciting than ever.”

— Pia Taylor

Color

“We anticipate that in 2023, color will be in! We think folks will start to steer away from neutral palettes to include more bold choices in their homes… on everything from wall color, to kitchen cabinets, to mixed metal fixtures/hardware and beyond. And we’re here for it — bring on the color!”

— The Rivkin Group
Fulton appointed to ALX Electoral Board

The Alexandria Republican City Committee announced the Alexandria Circuit Court’s appointment of Tom Fulton to the Alexandria Electoral Board, according to a news release.

The AEB oversees the city’s Office of Voter Registrations and elections. Fulton is a former chairman of the ARCC and was recently sworn into the office by Greg Parks, Alexandria clerk of the court.

ARCC Chairman Annetta Catchings, who announced Fulton’s appointment, said in a news release that she selected board candidates with diverse backgrounds and experiences “whom I felt were capable of representing the party well with their values and expertise.”

“I congratulate Tom Fulton on this prestigious appointment and I am confident that his years of expertise will be invaluable to the board,” Catchings said.

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Police arrest shots fired suspect

The Alexandria Police Department has made an arrest in connection with a shots fired incident in the 1500 block of Princess Street.

Public Information Officer Marcel Bassett told the Times on Wednesday afternoon that Chauvez Diggins, of Alexandria, was arrested for the crime.

APD Tweeted at approximately 10:05 a.m. on Dec. 31 that there was heavy police presence near and around the area. Residents reported that the area remained blocked off as an apparent crime scene for several hours.

No injuries have been reported in connection to the incident, according to APD.

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APD has made an arrest in connection with a shots fired incident in the 1500 block of Princess Street.

WEEKLY BRIEFING

Buddy Says Welcome 2023!

At 20 months old, Buddy is fully grown yet still has his adorable puppy energy. He’s ready to play fetch, take a walk or ride in the car. Buddy is 60 pounds of pure joy—he loves people and other pets. Buddy is as smart as he is active and has learned tricks, including Sit, Down and even Shake. Welcome the new year with Buddy.

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

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“Because everyone needs a home.”

Happy Birthday

A very happy birthday extended to two Samir Suleymanov’s. They will be celebrating a sum of 60 years! Samir Suleymanov Senior turns 48 this January 6th while Junior turns 12 this January 11th. The two not only share a birthday month but are joined by the eldest son of the Suleymanov family, Mirza (26), in their ardent passion for soccer. Before greeting the New Year, the three men finally witnessed their favorite player Lionel Messi winning the World Cup in Qatar. Their family loves them abundantly and wishes them all the best this coming year. Happy birthday!
Kitty Petroff, whose work is featured here, will be featured at the Winter Solstice event.

**Nepenthe Gallery to feature local artists**

Nepenthe Gallery has announced a special exhibit, "Winter Solstice 2023: A Curated Expo of Works by Local Artists," which will feature paintings by seven Alexandria artists. The artists include Tom Dupuis, Brent Erickson, Anne Heising, Kitty Petroff, Martha Petroff, Margaret Teague and Peter Wyckoff.

The event will take place on Jan. 12 at 6 p.m. as part of Nepenthe Gallery’s art, wine and cheese series. It will conclude on Jan. 31.

For more information, visit nepenthegallery.com.

-oanderson@alextimes.com

**Scholarship opens for CNA course**

LeadingAge Virginia, an association of aging services nonprofits, is currently accepting applications for scholarships toward an advanced certified nurse aide course that will take place in Alexandria.

According to a news release, there will be 15 scholarships valued at $2,500 each to cover an ACNA course from Feb. 6 to April 17. CNAs are encouraged to apply by Jan. 27.

In partnership with Northern Virginia Community College, the curriculum will include hybrid virtual and in-person learning, clinical coursework and rotations. It will take place at Goodwin House Alexandria, according to the release.

The program is part of a grant awarded to leadingAge Virginia in 2021 by the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services.

For more information and application instructions, visit https://leadingagevirginia.org/mpage/AdvancedCNAHome.

-oanderson@alextimes.com
Margaret "Peggy" Lee Ames Ward, 76, beloved wife, mother and grandmother, died peacefully on Dec. 9, 2022 at Martha Jefferson Hospital in Charlottesville, Va. She was born to J. Lewis and Margaret Ames on June 18, 1946, raised in Massapequa, N.Y., lived in Alexandria, Va., and was currently residing in Corolla, N.C.

After graduating from Massapequa High School, Peggy attended Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio where she joined the Delta Delta Delta sorority spending one year as Rush Chairwoman. Her other college activities included Little Sisters of Sigma Alpha Epsilon; the Association of Women Students; the Senior Responsibilities Committee; and she was a Resident Assistant. It was at Ohio Wesleyan where she met the love of her life.

After college, Peggy married Michael Ward of Alexandria, Va. and settled in that same town. She worked as a teacher at St. Agnes School in Alexandria for several years before becoming a stay-at-home mom to three young children. As her children grew older, Peggy worked as a photographer for real estate publications before assisting her husband with the family business, MRW Holdings, specializing in the property management side of the business.

In 2003, Peggy along with her husband, moved to the Outer Banks area of North Carolina after 24 years as an Alexandria resident. When Peggy lost her husband of almost 40 years in 2008, she then split time between her family home in Corolla, N.C. and Charlottesville, Va., the home of her two daughters at that time.

Throughout her life, she always found time to volunteer, very much the "kind and generous" person described by her friends and family. From coaching cheerleading at St. Mary's Elementary School in Alexandria during the 70s and 80s, assisting with multiple college reunion plans for Ohio Wesleyan; to sitting on the Homeowners' Board of the Windswept Ridge in Corolla at the time of her death, Peggy always found time to give back. Other outside pursuits included the Homeowners' Board of the Currituck Club, work with Corolla Chapel, and the Currituck County Extension Program.

Peggy was preceded in death by her husband Mike Ward (2008) and is survived by her three children, son Chris Ward and daughter-in-law Lisa; daughter Stephanie Scheel; daughter Melissa Gardiner and son-in-law Francois Martin; her "Spanish daughter" Sandra; her brother John Ames and sister-in-law Elaine; her five treasured grandchildren Colin, Molly, Dylan, Mackenzie, and Maddie, and two "bonus grans," Claire and Amelia.

Friends and family are invited to share in the celebration of Peggy's life at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt St., Alexandria, Va., 22314 at 10 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 6. The family asks in lieu of flowers that contributions be made to: Corolla Chapel, 1156 Corolla Village Rd., Corolla, NC 27927; or Corolla Beach Rescue, 520 Old Storey Rd., Suite J, Corolla, NC, 27927.
enal by his ordeal, Kamali was finally able to speak on Tuesday for the first time since being admitted. Oliveri said that he doesn’t remember what happened to have led him to the hospital, or even the last recorded Lyft drive that dropped him off at his apartment before he went missing.

“I think it was more waiting for Kilee to wake up to see if [he] would remember something and say, ‘Oh, this thing happened to me or someone did this to me or what have you,’” Oliveri said. “Kilee doesn’t remember anything. He may eventually.”

Oliveri suggested that the incident or memory black-out might have something to do with his bipolar disorder, but does not know what happened. Kamali is in stable condition and is expected to be discharged this week.

Recovery will include regular physical therapy and subacute rehabilitation. Kamali will have to go home in a wheelchair, Oliveri said, and regaining full health will take “a long time.”

But things are looking up. In four days, Kamali went from being barely able to whisper to mouthing full sentences. His demeanor has improved substantially, Oliveri said.

“Everybody, the doctors, nurses, my sister and I just wanted to be like, ‘It’s okay, you don’t have to try to talk. He just started thanking everyone around him … the nurse, the tech, every person that came in [he was] just like, ‘Thank you. Thank you so much,’” Oliveri said. “… He’s in this just very sweet frame of mind and he’s really determined to make sure that he’s thanking everybody who helped to rescue him, essentially.”

The GoFundMe page has been updated to reflect that there is no longer a need for a private investigator but instead the growing medical expenses, which Oliveri said could be astronomical. Those interested in donating or sharing the page are encouraged to visit https://www.gofundme.com/f/we3ys-bring-kilee-home.

Overwhelmed by the flood of community support, Oliveri expressed gratitude for everyone who has assisted in locating her son or has sent kind messages. As 2023 settles in, she plans to catch her breath and hold those closest to her tightly.

“My feeling now is that we found him alive on December 30th. I didn’t have to try to bring in the new year without my son beside me and alive. I feel just filled with thankfulness, gratefulness [and] joy,” Oliveri said.

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charming, they all have a story to tell. Perhaps the grandest home and garden is on Cameron Street. It is nicknamed the Lord Fairfax House, which honors Thomas, the ninth Lord Fairfax who lived in it from 1830 to 1846 when it passed to his son.

The house has been fortunate in its subsequent owners and boasts original moldings, mantles, floors, windows and doors. The house and the garden have been under a historic easement since 1980. Within the easement owners have expanded the kitchen and updated the bathrooms to create a truly gracious home. Some might even argue that Lord Fairfax would doubtlessly approve.

Other notable homes in the city are located on Cameron Street and on Lee Street. Both date from the late 1700s and have been modified over the years with careful attention to preserving historic architectural features.

On Lee Street a set of attic stairs is termed “suicide stairs.” They lead to the attic where household help probably slept. The steep stairs presented a challenge both then and now. The interior of this three-story townhouse is sunny and welcoming. Now and in times past, the rooms often hold the sound of friends and laughter. On Cameron Street the owners have been devoted pres-
There are stories of ceilings that were about to fall and substantial restoration with new discoveries. A carriage house in the back now contains living space as the horse is long gone.

Last but not least among the houses with interior easements is a Victorian home on Royal Street. Its neighbors have been updated beyond recognition. This house retains its Victorian splendor in its fireplaces, moldings and lace woodwork. The present owners are collectors of craftsman furniture which fits right in with the colors and sensitivities of the Victorian building. One particular delight is a bread oven built into a radiator in the kitchen. Attention to detail here is evident even in the wonderful curtains straight from Scotland.

The Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission seeks to expand Alexandria's preservation of its historic buildings and spaces. For more information about preserving an interior through a preservation easement, contact the Office of Historic Alexandria at 703-746-4554.

The writer is chair of the Alexandria Historic Restoration and Preservation Commission.
Signature Theatre celebrates Sondheim

‘Into the Woods’ kicks off season-long tribute to late composer

BY MAE HUNT

Signature Theatre’s production of “Into the Woods” opened on Nov. 9, but have no fear, there’s still plenty of time to see it before it closes Jan. 29.

“Into the Woods” is the first installment of So Many Possibilities, Signature’s season-long tribute to the incomparable composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim, who died in 2021. According to their website, Signature is “the American Theater that has produced and championed more of Sondheim’s work than any other,” so this thorough celebration of his legacy is no surprise. Along with performing “Into the Woods,” “Pacific Overtures” and “Sweeney Todd” during the 2022-23 season, Signature will also host sing-alongs and other events through the Sharing Sondheim project, with the ultimate goal of speaking or singing all of Sondheim’s songs aloud before “Sweeney Todd” closes in July.

It makes sense to kick things off with “Into the Woods.” The characters are already familiar to pretty much everyone – Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Prince Charming, Jack (of Beanstalk fame), and so on. “Into the Woods” is one of Sondheim’s most accessible shows, and arguably one of his most disturbing – not solely because of the violence and misfortune, but because the characters who experience and carry it out are ones we associate with childhood innocence.

“Into the Woods” borrows primarily from older, and usually more gruesome, versions of fairy tales, but Sondheim was acutely aware that his audience was more familiar with simpler, sanitized adaptations. The show’s genius lies in how it does not use its darkness for shock value, but rather, as an invitation for us to look within ourselves and examine what we find.

“Into the Woods” first opened on Broadway in 1987. By then Sondheim’s reputation for writing dark shows tackling the human experience was firmly established, so it was a given that young children were not the target audience. The show firmly subverts the expected trope of the “happy ending” in Act II, focusing on themes of grief, parenthood, failure and survival.

In Signature’s production, Lee Savage’s scenic design reflected Sondheim’s subversion. The thrust stage is skewed at an angle, challenging the audience to view the show’s events from an unexpected perspective. Trees, vines and shrubs encroach on a dilapidated-looking interior, demonstrating the power and perpetuity of the titular “woods,” where all the significant plot points and character growth takes place. One set detail I particularly enjoyed was the use of furniture items as unconventional entrances. Every time a character emerged from the back of a wardrobe into a scene, I found myself swept up by sheer fairytale whimsy.

Many of the technical choices were also innovative. “Into the Woods” presents a challenge, because one of its major antagonists is performed only by the actor’s pre-recorded voice, communicating with the main characters from offstage. Lighting designer Amanda Zieve and sound designer Eric Norris were able to convey the sense of terror these character’s scenes require through severe lighting and stage and sound effects distinct from anything else in the production.

The fantastic 15-piece orchestra was also a highlight. The orchestra not only complemented the cast’s singing, but also made me feel immersed in the seductive, ominous setting of the woods.

Although “Into the Woods” contains few elaborate dance numbers, its sizable ensemble cast requires a skillful use of the theater space. I was impressed by director and choreographer Matthew Gardiner’s blocking and transitions, especially when all of the characters had to move around the stage at once, each with a unique goal and destination. The musical numbers that featured the entire company were my favorite parts of the show, because the seamless choreography was so fun to watch.

Sondheim writes his stock characters with nuance and complexity, and the Signature cast succeeded in bringing his words to life. Alex De Bard was born to play Little Red Riding Hood, bringing vocal chops and excellent comedic timing to my personal favorite Sondheim number, “I Know Things Now.” Vincent Kempski and Paul Scanlan stole the show as the two princes, especially during the hilarious duet, “Agony.” The authentic emotions from the actors, especially during Act II, were impressive across the board. Katie Mariko Murray as Cinderella and Jake Loewenthal as the Baker each gave particularly moving performances, somehow leaving me simultaneously heartbroken and uplifted.

At its core, “Into the Woods” is about the importance of stories. Sondheim uses familiar tropes and a nebulus setting to demonstrate that we can always grow from the past and pass the lessons we learn down to our children. From start to finish, Signature Theatre’s production hums with love and care for the story Sondheim created, with all its twists and intricacies.

The writer, a lifelong Alexandrian, works in the fine arts industry. She is an award-winning playwright who was former editor-in-chief and fine arts editor of the Kenyan Collegian.

AT A GLANCE

Where: Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington, Virginia 22206
When: Through Jan. 29.
Tickets: www.sigtheatre.org
Email tickets@sigtheatre.org
or call the box office at 703-829-9771.
Starting off fresh

New year’s resolutions for furry friends
BY GINA HARDTER

On Jan. 1, people around the world resolve to make changes to improve their lives, but what about improving the lives of our furry friends? This year, resolve to make 2023 a better and healthier year for the pet you love. How can you do that?

Exercise for all

Tens of thousands of humans will join a gym, invest in an elliptical or start a new stretching routine. Give your pet the same opportunity. Sure, Fido may not want to rock the Spandex and wrist warmer look, but there are plenty of ways to get more exercise for your dog or your cat, starting with the basics, like more frequent walks. Pro Tip: Make sure you’re being safe about walk duration during the cold winter months.

But don’t let the exercise stop with walks. Dogs and cats can benefit from interactive toys that drive them to play, such as battery-powered balls that move around or treat launchers, or even games of chase with items from around the house. And for the most dedicated pet exerciser, there are even treadmill “wheels” for cats or safe treadmill routines for dogs.

Revisit your diet

The holiday season is full of filling, fatty foods, and pets can benefit from a diet do-over just as much as people. Work with your vet to make sure you understand your pet’s food needs, including daily recommended caloric intake and any special dietary needs for allergies or other health concerns, and ask what brands they might recommend. Consider how you are feeding your pets too; instead of a bowl, what if they got their food from an interactive toy or a Kong feeder. Be careful of making dietary changes all at once, or your pet may end up with an upset stomach; instead, transition them gradually from an old food to a new one. Pro Tip: If you’ve changed your pet’s diet and they don’t like the new food, most foods can be used at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria to support pets in our facility and across the community, so reach out to see if we can take it.

Check your chompers

Dental health is an important part of physical health, as dental disease can result in a wide range of issues, from a little tartar to full tooth rot and even jaw damage. We may not think about brushing our pet’s teeth, but daily brushing using a special pet toothbrush or brushing toys/chews can make a huge difference in their dental health, and flavored toothpaste is available for pets to make brushing an enjoyable experience. If your pet is older, ask your veterinarian if they should be considered for a professional sedated dental cleaning to keep their teeth healthy well into their later years. Pro Tip: Do not use human toothbrushes or toothpaste on pets, as they are not meant for animal teeth and can even be toxic to pets.

Spend more time together

What does your pet enjoy more than anything? Spending time with you, of course! Sometimes we get so busy that we forget that we are the center of our pets’ worlds and that they probably won’t be in our lives as long as we’d like. Make the time that you have now matter and spend some extra quality time with your beloved pet on activities that you both enjoy, even if it is just a lazy morning spent in bed. After all, no one ever regretted time spent with their favorite animal.

Try new things

While you’re spending a little extra time with your pet, why not use it to try something new? From teaching your dog a new skill or activity, like agility training or frisbee, to taking your indoor kitty on a hike with a cat backpack, open up your animals’ horizons and try something different together. Whether you take your dog swimming — as their health and temperament allow — or just give your cat a safe, enclosed space to enjoy the great outdoors, each new adventure gives you and your pet a chance to explore, to bond and to grow.

And you can also resolve to help animals across your community by supporting the AWLA by adoption, volunteering, fostering or donating.

The writer is director of marketing and communications for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization supporting Alexandria and beyond. More information is available at AlexandriaAnimals.org.

Beautiful Blossom

BLOSSOM IS LOOKING FOR A QUIET HOME WHERE SHE CAN BE YOUR ONE AND ONLY.

A Cat Welfare Organization

There are plenty of ways to get more exercise for your pet, starting with the basics, like more frequent walks.
Optimizing the great outdoors

Top five design trends for 2023
BY BRANDPOINT

While 2023 will reveal new outdoor design trends, two current favorites – mixed materials and bringing the indoors out – are maintaining their previous popularity into the new year. New trends that landscape designers are anticipating include more interest in sustainability, expanding the use of outdoor spaces and maximizing cutting-edge technology.

Growing from the pandemic, interest in outdoor living is now at an all-time high – and the top 2023 trends in outdoor design reflect that continued interest.

Supporting sustainability
Caring for the environment is an increasing priority for homeowners, especially those who love the outdoors and want to ensure the environment is preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Extending indoor spaces
Bringing the indoors out is hardly new, but as more homeowners view outdoor spaces as extensions of their home, the trend is definitely here to stay. Creating outdoor spaces that reflect your lifestyle and design aesthetic is not only a goal for larger homes and lots, but also for smaller lots needing more privacy.

Creating outdoor spaces that reflect your lifestyle and design aesthetic is not only a goal for larger homes and lots, but also for smaller lots needing more privacy.

HOME OF THE WEEK

Spacious colonial on a cul-de-sac

Located on a quiet cul-de-sac, this four-bedroom plus two-and-a-half bath brick colonial features a spacious living room, formal dining room and an eat-in kitchen. The warm and inviting family room is perfect for watching football games in front of a roaring wood-burning fireplace. The family room opens onto a large deck and a huge level back yard. The spacious brick patio is perfect for outdoor entertaining. The lower level features a spacious game room, home office and abundant storage. This is an incredibly convenient location only minutes to 495, 395 and downtown Washington, D.C.!
more privacy. Shade structures like pergolas, shade sails and screen panels offer seclusion as well as protection from the heat, helping outdoor spaces become more private and livable, no matter the size.

Today’s homeowners are also equipping spaces with fully operational kitchens, quality outdoor furniture, fire pits and games to upgrade their outdoor living experience. The back yard is becoming the go-to spot for fun, with outdoor games including life-size chess, billiards, mini-golf and more.

**Color and texture**

As outdoor spaces become extensions of the home, designers and homeowners see these spaces as more than just a place to host barbecues. Mixing natural materials including wood, stone and plants – as in living walls – with man-made materials like glass and metal creates interesting variety in texture and color that transforms any space into a more attractive environment. Textured pavers are also becoming more popular, such as those that mimic natural stone or textile finishes.

Patterns can also be created using modular designs, textured pavers and hardscaping features to make any outdoor space both calming and energizing. Outdoor lighting provides more visual interest to your space while extending its usable hours – with color-changing lights turning any patio into party central.

**Creating multi-purpose spaces**

Today’s back yards fulfill multiple purposes, with Zen gardens or labyrinths extending off traditional patios for additional relaxation or meditation areas. Gardening is also resurging, as homeowners are growing herbs, vegetables, fruits and flowers using raised and vertical gardens, small greenhouses or hot boxes.

**Utilizing technology**

With mixed-use spaces becoming more complex, using augmented reality can streamline the design process for homeowners and contractors alike. AR technology allows homeowners to see small details in design down to plants, shadows and even animations. Today’s technology helps manage the growing popularity of outdoor living, with AR and mixed reality letting designers and homeowners visualize and communicate their plans.

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- - -

Mixing natural materials including wood, stone and plants with man-made materials like glass and metal creates variety in texture and color that transforms any space into a more attractive environment.
The wonder of words

Hopeful poetry for the new year
BY ZEINA AZZAM

Every time we usher in another year, there is excitement about what lies ahead. We offer each other blessings and wishes of happiness. The Germans say to “have a good slide” into the new year, implying an ease of a transition from the old to the new. Many cultures wish for happiness and prosperity. In my culture, and in Arab culture in general, we wish each other good health — “May each year find you well.” On New Year’s Eve, many people sing “Auld Lang Syne,” whose words evoke old friendships and bid goodbye to the old year. The lyrics, based on an old Scottish folk song, were written by 18th-century poet Robert Burns.

Indeed, poets through the ages have provided us with an abundance of verse to mark endings and celebrate new beginnings. They offer us inspiration to keep going and face what is ahead with equanimity and hope. In “blessing the boats,” poet Lucille Clifton writes: “may the tide ... / carry you out/beyond the face of / fear/ may you kiss/the wind / then turn from it/certain that it / will/love you back ...” Clifton’s words offer a comforting and loving blessing to the reader.

Poet Joy Harjo uplifts human history as a profound source of our identity and our connectedness to nature and the world around us. She admonishes us to “Remember” — the title of her poem — repeating the word many times almost like a mantra, a touchstone. “Remember the sky that you were born under,/know each of the star’s stories .../Remember your birth ... / Remember the earth whose skin you are:/ red earth, black earth, yellow earth, white earth/ brown earth, we are earth../ Remember you are this universe and this/universe is you.”

In a similar vein, the verses from Alberto Ríos’s poem, “A House Called Tomorrow,” affirm our inherent humanity and deep links to each other. “You are made, fundamentally, from the good./ With this knowledge, you never march alone.” In fact, Ríos writes that each one of us embodies the history of everyone in our family tree who came before us; it is reassuring to reinforce this lineage and draw strength from it. “From those centuries we human beings bring with us/ The simple solutions and songs,/ The river bridges and star charts and song harmonies/ All in service to a simple idea:/ That we can make a house called tomorrow.”

One of my favorite poems by Naomi Shihab Nye is “Kindness.” In it she, too, expounds on the idea of a shared sensibility, one that we must feel before we can understand what kindness is. Her poem starts with “Before you know what kindness really is/ you must lose things,” and later she writes the powerful words, “Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside,/you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing./ You must wake up with sorrow./ You must speak to it till your voice/catches the thread of all sorrows/ and you see the size of the cloth.” Nye enjoins us to have empathy for and feel a collective responsibility toward our community as the first step toward being a truly kind person.

In his poem “God Particles,” James Crews feels a deep connection to the universe. Although these particles seem ephemeral, like stardust and things we will never see, there is an enduring aspect to them, especially as he invokes Einstein in the latter part of the poem. Even though it’s science that explains how such indiscernible particles are there “just to keep my body fixed to its place/ on the earth. Call them God if you must,/ these messengers that bring hard evidence/ of what I once was and where I have been ...” — science seems not to fully explain the heady awareness the poet experiences in contemplating his place in the universe.

These poems are gifts that ground us in the knowledge that we are all linked across time and space. Such connections call out to us to create hope and kindness in our lives, now and in the new year.

Poetry prompt:
Write a poem personifying and addressing the old and new years, with two stanzas: the first bidding farewell to the old year, with whatever positive or negative events it brought; and the second welcoming the new year, with two stanzas: the first welcoming the new year and asking it for certain kindnesses. If you would like to share your poem, send it to poet@alexandriava.gov.

Poem links:
- www.poets.org/poem/auld-lang-syne
- www.poetryfoundation.org/
- www.poems/58816/blessing-the-boats
- www.poets.org/poem/remember-0
- www.poets.org/poem/house-called-tomorrow
- www.poets.org/poem/kindness
- www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/56621/god-particles

The writer is the City of Alexandria’s poet laureate.
Our View
The power of love and goodwill

Two stories, both with happy endings, have helped provide a hopeful launch to 2023 in Alexandria. Both are testaments to the power of determination, care and, above all, love.

On page 1 of this week’s issue of the Alexandria Times, “Missing city resident found” recounts the remarkable story of Kilee “Kyle” Kamali, who had been missing since mid-December. His mother, Julie Oliveri, discovered that Kamali had disappeared on Dec. 15 and subsequently launched an all-out effort to find her son. Working with the police, utilizing social media and, finally, hiring a private investigator, Oliveri doggedly continued searching for her son, who lives with bipolar disorder, even as day after day ominously passed with no word about Kamali’s whereabouts.

Miraculously, Kamali was found on the penultimate day of 2022, when a Good Samaritan who works with the homeless spotted Kamali on the street in D.C., realized he needed medical help and called an ambulance, which took him to a D.C. hospital. Shortly thereafter, Oliveri received a call from the hospital saying they had her son, though he was on a ventilator due to a serious respiratory infection.

Oliveri rushed to her son’s side, and it looks as if he will be OK. Kamali is now off the ventilator, talking — albeit quietly — and readying to leave the hospital soon.

The other story, in the Dec. 22 issue of the Times — our last paper of the year with current news prior to our year-in-review issue — was about a pair of senior sister dogs, Sophie and Joey, who had spent their whole lives together and needed a new home.

Love for these dogs abounded, beginning with their former elderly owner who could no longer care for them but turned them into the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria rather than have them euthanized. The owner requested that they not be separated, as they knew the dogs would be miserable without each other.

The AWLA did their best to publicize the plight of these dogs in hopes a new owner would come forward. Realtor Diann Hicks, an animal lover, featured the dogs in her Pet-of-the-Week ad that runs in the Times, and we ran a front page story entitled “AWLA seeks home for senior dog pair” on Dec. 22.

AWLA reports that they subsequently received numerous inquiries about the canine sisters and that Joey and Sophie are now happily settling into their new forever home — together.

In both of these instances it took many people — a network or a village — all sharing concern, compassion, and, yes, love to bring about happy endings. These stories are testament to the power of love, and we choose to view them as a portent of good, not bad, things to come in 2023.

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

Photo of the Week

The Potomac River on a recent icy morning.

Your Views

Red Cross, Peyton Manning seeking blood donors

To the editor:

This January, the American Red Cross and Pro Football Hall of Famer and blood donor Peyton Manning are asking people to score big for patients in need – while getting a chance to win a trip to Super Bowl LVII in Arizona – by giving blood or platelets.

The start of the new year marks National Blood Donor Month, which is a time to celebrate those who generously roll up a sleeve to keep blood products stocked for hospitals providing critical care. As the busy holiday season winds down and the threat of severe winter weather and seasonal illness cases continue to rise, January can be a tough time for donors to make and keep appointments.

Step off the sidelines and resolve to donate blood or platelets. To book a time to give, visit RedCrossBlood.org, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or call 1-800-RED CROSS. In partnership with the National Football League, those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma between Jan. 1 to 31 will be automatically entered to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LVII in Arizona®, including access to day-of, in-stadium pre-game activities, tickets to the official Super Bowl Experience, round-trip airfare to Phoenix, three-night hotel accommodations for Feb. 10 to 13, plus a $500 gift card for expenses.

SEE RED CROSS
To lead the offense against a potential winter blood shortage, Manning invites the public to join him in helping save lives. “If everyone does their part and we collectively commit to donating blood, we can stack up more wins for hospital patients who are counting on us. A single individual is certainly impactful, but a whole team of people coming together to donate has an even greater effect.”

Upcoming blood donation opportunities may be found by entering your zip code at RedCross-Blood.org. In addition to the website, phone number and app listed above, to donate blood you can enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information.

All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states – or 16 with parental consent where allowed by state law – weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCross-Blood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

Another way to support the lifesaving mission of the Red Cross is to become a volunteer blood donor ambassador at Red Cross blood drives. Blood donor ambassadors help greet, check-in and thank blood donors to ensure they have a positive donation experience. For more information and to get started, visit redcross.org/volunteertoday.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation’s blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.
Ice wells in Alexandria

The recent cold weather in Alexandria has been an unwelcome inconvenience for many residents. Did you know that in the 1790s, one of Alexandria’s iconic businesses relied on cold weather to propel itself above its competition?

In 1792, John Wise built the City Tavern as the finest lodging facility in Alexandria. Today, City Tavern is known as Gadsby’s Tavern. Wise included the construction of an icehouse underneath the corner of Royal and Cameron Streets in his design plans for the hotel. The public can view the restored icehouse at that same location today.

Ice harvesting was not an easy endeavor at the time. Hotel workers cut the ice from the frozen Potomac River in the winter months and hauled it to the City Tavern by cart. After placing the ice in the well, Wise, his employees and enslaved people formed the ice into a solid mound and covered it with straw to keep it usable through the summer. The ability to preserve ice allowed City Tavern to chill beverages, preserve perishable foods and make the dessert that had recently come into favor: ice cream.

The icehouse allowed the City Tavern to distinguish itself from competitors unable to provide guests with the same amenities. A later operator of the Tavern, John Gadsby, advertised his willingness to sell ice from the well to the general public in 1805.

Other ice wells in Alexandria were exclusive to wealthy, private owners. The ice well built at Royal and Cameron streets is much larger than most privately owned ice houses, expanding to 17 feet in diameter and more than 11 feet deep at its deepest point. At capacity, the ice well held 68 tons of ice, more than enough for the use of a hotel throughout a year.

The American Legion donated Gadsby’s Tavern Museum to the City of Alexandria in 1972. Along with restoring the museum, the city excavated and stabilized the ice well. The restoration effort included placing a concrete cap over the ice well and removing a section of the well to allow the public to see the interior through a glass cutout.

In 2013, Gadsby’s Tavern led the restoration of the ice well. The restoration stabilized the ice well’s interior, reduced moisture accumulation and improved ventilation. The restoration also improved the visitor’s visual experience, installing new viewing windows and open-plan seating to allow the public to view the interior day and night.

Today, pedestrians can view an historical artifact unique to the history of hospitality and the development of commerce in Alexandria. Those operating the City Tavern and its successors would probably have wished for even colder weather than we’ve experienced this winter.

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

WORD GETS AROUND by Morton J. Mendelson, edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS
1 King and queen, perhaps
2 Speak drunkenly
3 After surgery, briefly
4 Gobs and gobs
5 "I'll get this round!"
6 The bull, at a corrida
7 *Shocking (Hint: Each starred clue's answer includes two neighboring letters)
8 *Well-trained employee
9 Humanlike robots
10 Calf-length pants
11 Troubles
12 Jacob's twin
13 Roman Senate garments
14 Like ocean trenches
15 "Lookie here!"
16 Championed
17 Bitter beer, for short
18 Like fuzzy graphics
19 Goody-goody
20 *Group of regular revelers
21 "Lookie here!"
22 Trainees
23 Partially shot in Morocco
24 Trainees
25 *Loorie here!
26 Flair
27 Roman Senate garments
28 Calf-length pants
29 Troubles
30 Jacob's twin
31 Humanlike robots
32 Correct, as text
33 Concurrenlty
34 "What an area rug may cover
35 "Is up for lying down
36 "Like fuzzy graphics
37 Goody-goody
38 *Group of regular revelers
39 "Lookie here!"
40 Trainees
41 Partially shot in Morocco
42 *Loorie here!
43 "What an area rug may cover
44 "Is up for lying down
45 "Like fuzzy graphics
46 Goody-goody
47 "Group of regular revelers
48 "Lookie here!"
49 Trainees
50 Partially shot in Morocco
51 "Lookie here!"
52 "What an area rug may cover
53 "Is up for lying down
54 "Like fuzzy graphics
55 Goody-goody
56 "Group of regular revelers
57 "Lookie here!"
58 Trainees
59 Partially shot in Morocco
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115 Goody-goody
116 "Group of regular revelers
117 "Lookie here!"
118 "What an area rug may cover
119 "Is up for lying down
120 "Like fuzzy graphics
121 Goody-goody

DOWN
1 Mexican peninsula, informally
2 Flint
3 Opinion writer Maureen
4 Stockpile
5 Some historic photos
6 Home due to illness
7 Starbucks dispensers
8 D&D, e.g.
9 Prescription amounts
10 Stamps' first targets
11 Kuwaiti rulers
12 Baloney seller
13 Pumpkin head?
14 O.K. Corral's locale
15 Razor sharpener
16 Drag on a joint
17 Mine finds
18 Olympic code for
19 Lisbon's country
20 Pretends to be
21 Psychedelic trip sources
22 Guarantee, as a lease
23 Hit the sack
24 Poetic name for
25 "___ you like it?"
26 Request to a barista
27 Nail polish brand
28 First acts and first games
29 Old Apple communication app
30 "___ be my pleasure"
31 "Let's get the f-f-fire going!"
32 "No more dillydallying!
33 "Let's get the f-f-fire going!"
34 "Come on down!"
35 "...you like it?"
36 "...you like it?"
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119 "...you like it?"
120 "...you like it?"

Solutions from last week

JOHN COOGAN (71), of Alexandria, Dec. 16, 2022
MARY FRANKO (51), of Alexandria, Dec. 24, 2022
PAUL LEHMAN (92), formerly of Alexandria, Dec. 26, 2022
CLETUS MILLER (92), of Alexandria, Dec. 20, 2022
ASIMENIA PSARAKIS (93), of Alexandria, Jan. 1, 2023
BARBARA STICKELL (92), of Alexandria, Dec. 20, 2022
CLARENCE SWANNER (86), of Alexandria, Dec. 23, 2022
JANUARY 6

AMERICAN GIRL DRESS UP AND PLAY Drop in with your American Girl doll or borrow one for an hour for free, and play dress up with a collection of clothes and accessories. Supplies will be provided to make doll flower crowns to take home. The event is for kids ages 6 to 12.

Time: 3 to 4 p.m.
Location: 717 Queen St.
Information: alexlibraryva.org/event/7503003

PUTTING A FACE TO A NAME OPENING RECEPTION Come see the “Putting A Face To A Name” art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans Gallery. The showcase will feature local artists reimagining fictional characters from books, movies, plays, poetry television and more. There will be an opportunity at the event to meet the curator and artists.

Time: 6 to 7 p.m.
Location: 2704 Mount Vernon Ave.
Information: delrayartisans.org/calendar/

JANUARY 8

GOLDEN AGE OF TOYS EXHIBIT AT LEE-FENDALL HOUSE Venture into the golden age of toys from 1870 to 1920. Learn how toy production was perfected in this era and explore toy production was perfected from 1870 to 1920. Learn how toy production was perfected.

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: 614 Oronoco St.
Information: leefendallhouse.org/events/
A Public Hearing will be held by the Board of Architectural Review on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, room 2400, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 on the following applications:

BAR #2022-00495 OHAD Request for certificate of appropriateness at 400 Wolfe Street Applicant: Elizabeth Gorman

BAR #2022-00516 OHAD Request for demolition/encapsulation at 227 S Fairfax Street Applicant: Errol de Montille

BAR #2022-00418 OHAD Request for signage at 701 King Street Applicant: Alex Sorell

BAR #2022-00526 OHAD Request for partial demolition/encapsulation at 424 South Lee Street Applicant: Charles Enoch

BAR #2022-00513 OHAD Request for addition and alterations at 104 Pommander Walk Street Applicant: Dan Morrison and Lianne Reilly

BAR #2022-00557 OHAD Request for demolition/encapsulation at 104 Pommander Walk Street Applicant: Dan Morrison and Lianne Reilly

BAR #2022-00560 OHAD Request for alterations at 117 Prince Street Applicant: Alan and Julie King

BAR #2022-00561 OHAD Request for partial demolition/encapsulation at 117 Prince Street Applicant: Alan and Julie King

BAR #2022-00568 OHAD Request for partial demolition/encapsulation at 322 South Saint Asaph Street Applicant: Gail and Charles Camaller

BAR #2022-00573 OHAD Request for alterations at 113 North Fairfax Street Applicant: Talmage Day Jr.

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

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

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Alicia Chase at alicia.chase@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.3810, Virginia Relay 711.

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

Keith’s custom built storage sheds built to your specifications. No permit required anything under 15 x 20 ft. tall. Rough to finish carpentry and painting. 703-863-7567.

The Alexandria City School Board will hold a budget public hearing on the FY 2024 Combined Funds Budget during the School Board Meeting on January 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the School Board Meeting Room located at 1340 Braddock Place in Alexandria.

Public comments regarding the FY 2024 Combined Funds Budget may be submitted in the following ways:
- Sign up to speak at the January 19 public hearing at: https://acpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/wtfupe0e02qz4w1/
- Email written comments to the Clerk of the Board at boardclerk@acps.k12.va.us
- U.S. Mail: Clerk of the Board Alexandria City School Board 1340. Braddock Place Alexandria, VA 22314

Only comments related to the FY 2024 Combined Funds Budget will be heard at the public hearing. Requests to speak or to submit written comments must be submitted by Noon on January 18, 2023.

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

AT&T proposes to modify an existing facility (new tip heights 97.5’ & 101’) on the building at 1101 King St, Alexandria, VA (20222443). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

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For more information, please contact the Clerk of the Board at 703-619-8316.
McEnearney Associates: The Trusted Real Estate Resource for Alexandria & Beyond

OLD TOWN | $3,650,000
500 Duke Street
Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
LaurenBishopHomes.com

BELLE RIVE | $3,499,000
4001 Belle Rive Terrace
Tracy Dunn 571.212.3658
tracybdunn.com

FORDS LANDING | $3,495,000
704 Fords Landing Way
Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984
JanetPriceHomes.com

ROBINSON LANDING | $2,995,000
14 Duke Street
Chris Carrigan 571.245.6652
Gordon Wood 703.447.6138

BEVERLEY HILLS | $1,949,000
304 Lee Circle
Jen Walker 703.675.1566
JenWalker.com

OLD TOWN | $1,595,000
304 N Pitt Street
Peter Crouch 703.244.4024
Katie Crouch 703.447.1345

MALVERN HILL | $1,495,000
1305 Chancel Place
Noel Kaupinen 703.200.1165
noelk.com

TANNERY YARD | $959,900
529 S Saint Asaph Street
Chris Hayes 703.944.7737
Gordon Wood 703.447.6138

WESTGROVE | $869,900
6902 Clemson Drive
Phyllis Sintay 703.472.3563
psintay.com

ALEXANDRIA CITY | $859,000
477 E Taylor Run Parkway
Sallie Sely 703.798.4666
SallieSely.com

OLDE BELHAVEN TOWNE | $850,000
6315 Fort Hunt Road
Rebecca McCullough 571.384.0941
RebeccaMcCullough.com

WAYNEWOOD | $849,900
8413 Crown Place
Peter Crouch 703.244.4024
Katie Crouch 703.447.1345

ARLINGTON | $825,000
1804 N Cleveland Street
Michael Makris 703.402.0629
TheMakrisGroup.com

FAIRFAX | $774,900
10843 Broadwater Drive
Chris Hayes 703.944.7737
Gordon Wood 703.447.6138

FORT HUNT | $629,000
8111 Karl Road
Heidi Burkhardt 703.217.6009
RealtorHeidiB.com

NATIONAL HARBOR | $369,000
145 Riverhaven Drive #460
Jillian Keck Hogan 703.971.7655
JillianKeckHogan.com

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