



PHOTO/FAMILY/KERRY ANDERSON

Marjorie Land, left, and Joan Miller from 1952, the year they opened Market Square.

Little shop of history

Market Square Shop stays a constant during an era of evolution

BY KERRY BOYD ANDERSON

In an ever-changing world, the Market Square Shop in Old Town represents an oasis of continuity, history and commitment to craftsmanship. Located at 202 King St., the shop celebrated its 70th anniversary last fall. It has stood fast as the City of Alexandria in general and Old Town in particular have dra-

matically evolved around it.

The shop, which offers classic pieces for home decorating, has survived and even thrived for seven decades because of what current owner Bruce Schafer calls a needed service: sound advice and supplies for properly upholstering furniture and accessories. In particular, customers who want something unusual – something that reflects their individual tastes rather than the limited options offered by major chain stores –

have few other places to turn for assistance.

Schafer sees his work as helping customers “translate their lives into three-dimensions” by helping them find décor that suits their needs and tastes.

Toward that end, the small shop is filled with a variety of objects, including holiday decorations, lamps, home gifts, tassels, silver polish and fabric.

Schafer is passionate about

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Property assessments presented to council

Values increase across the board, with residential property rising more than 5%

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

City Council discussed real property assessments for this year at its Tuesday night legislative meeting, which included a 3.82% increase – or \$1.75 billion – from 2022 of locally assessed taxable real property assessments.

Of that number, the residential tax base added the most value at \$1.4 billion, or a 5.02% increase, followed by

the commercial tax base at \$355.5 million, or a 1.97% increase, and non-locally assessed tax base at \$21 million, or a 3.2% increase.

According to city staff, roughly one-fourth of the rise was due to new growth or construction, while three-fourths of the rise was due to appreciation, which is the change in the market. Most of that growth came from multi-family residential units, followed by residential and then commercial developments.

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INSIDE

Wedding

The pros and cons of hiring a wedding DJ.

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Seniors

Learn the benefits of dating later in life.

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Tying the Knot



COURTESY PHOTO

The love story of Alexandria couple John and Monika Chapman is filled with television shows, politics and the benefit of time. Read their full story on page 11.



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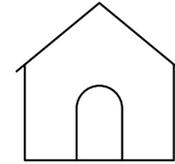
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The **spring market** has begun to ramp up, as buyers who might have been eyeing properties from afar are officially on the hunt. We've already seen quite a few multiple-offer scenarios, and are thrilled to have helped clients beat out competition for various Alexandria properties in Del Ray, Rosemont, Old Town and Kingstowne.



If you're **considering buying** a property in 2023, let's chat! This is the time to begin actively searching and we're here to discuss your goals over email, the phone or coffee. When you're ready, we can connect you with the best local lenders to answer all your financing questions and get your mortgage pre-approval moving.



If you're **considering selling** a property in 2023, let's chat! It can be helpful to develop a plan for your sale and we would love to help, including **help organizing and/or downsizing**. It can be difficult to know where to begin, especially if you're planning to pack up a house that you've called home for many years, but we have the strategies, experiences and connections to help lighten your load.



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WEEKLY BRIEFING

Man accused of killing brother pleads guilty

On Feb. 9, Enoc Cruz Villafuerte, 23, pleaded guilty to a two-count indictment alleging murder in the second degree and shooting in the commission of murder in connection with the death of his brother, Jonathan Cruz Villafuerte, 24 according to a news release.

According to the release, early on June 6, 2022, Enoc shot his brother Jonathan in the chest with a .380 assault-style rifle at their father's apartment in the 1400 block of North Beauregard Street. Enoc and Jonathan were in the living room of the apartment when the shooting happened.

There were no signs of a fight or struggle between Enoc and Jonathan, and Enoc confirmed with police that he and Jonathan were not argu-



PHOTO/ALEXANDRIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Enoc Cruz Villafuerte.

ing or fighting prior to him shooting Jonathan. Jonathan suffered one gunshot wound to the right side of his chest and was pronounced dead on scene.

A sentencing hearing will

be held on April 20 and Enoc faces a maximum of 45 years with no chance of parole. He is incarcerated in the Alexandria Adult Detention Center awaiting sentencing.

-lgolden@alextimes.com

Conviction in Cunningham trial

David Jasante Cunningham, 41, was convicted of aggravated murder and two counts of object sexual penetration on Feb. 9, according to a news release.

On Dec 7, 2021, Alexandria police responded to a residential apartment building on South Van Dorn Street where they found Melia Jones, a woman diagnosed with down syndrome, 23, deceased. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner later determined the cause of death to be asphyxia. Upon further investigation, it was determined Jones had also suffered injuries consistent

with a sexual assault.

"Today, a predator has been held accountable for the knowing, premeditated sexual assault and murder of a precious human being. For the rest of his life, the defendant will be housed in a prison, free to reflect and reckon on his vile and vicious acts. He deserves no better," Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter said in a statement. "But I do not wish to focus on the defendant. Instead, I choose to focus on the wonderful, love-filled life lived by Melia Jones.... Melia will always be remembered for her laughter, her dancing, and the

happiness she brought to the lives of others."

Evidence admitted at trial included surveillance video of the defendant interacting with the victim, fingerprint and DNA evidence and a video testimony with police detectives where Cunningham admitted to sexual contact with the victim.

The date of the sentencing hearing has yet to be determined. Cunningham faces life in prison without the possibility of parole. He is incarcerated in the Alexandria Adult Detention Center pending the sentencing hearing.

-lgolden@alextimes.com

Arrest made in recent shooting

The Alexandria Police Department, with the assistance of the Arlington County Police Department, have taken a suspect into custody in relation to a recent shooting incident according to a news release.

On Feb. 10, police responded to an area in the 3800 block of Russell Road to reports of a man shot. The victim was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The investigation is active, and anyone with related information is encouraged to contact APD Detective Robert Hill at 703-746-6712 or Robert.Hill@alexandriava.gov.

-lgolden@alextimes.com

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WEEKLY BRIEFING

Suspected student overdose at ACHS

Alexandria Fire Department emergency workers responded to a call on Feb. 10 at Alexandria City High School for

a suspected student overdose, according to ALXnow.com. In Arlington, a Wakefield High School student died after an

overdose at the school last week. No further details were available as of press time. *-lgolden@alextimes.com*

City to hold George Washington Birthday Parade



George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee
George Washington Birthday Parade
 February 20, 2023
 1 p.m. parade start



PHOTO/CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

Visit washingtonbirthday.com for more information.

The city will hold its annual George Washington Birthday Parade on Feb. 20 to honor the life and legacy of the nation's first president, who called Alexandria home. The event will also pay tribute to the 100th

anniversary of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. The parade will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. and features a special route along North Fayette and King

Street that will bring marchers to the base of the memorial. For more information about parking, routes and status, visit washingtonbirthday.com. *-oanderson@alextimes.com*

AlexRenew names new manager and CEO

Justin Carl became AlexRenew's fifth general manager and chief executive officer on Feb. 6, the organization announced in a statement. For the past five years, Carl has been the program manager for RiverRenew, AlexRenew's

\$615 million environmental initiative that will prevent millions of gallons of combined sewage from polluting Alexandria's waterways. Carl is a licensed professional engineer in Virginia and Washington, D.C.

He holds a bachelor's of science degree in environmental engineering from Wilkes University and a master's of engineering degree in environmental engineering from Manhattan College. *-lgolden@alextimes.com*

LETTICE AND LOVAGE

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If you are a fan of witty British humor, then this is the perfect play for you! This comedy satire, written by the author of Equus and Amadeus, and written specifically for Dame Maggie Smith, centers around an overly exuberant tour guide who loves to embellish the history behind an English country house and the stoic, aesthetically-minded inspector who tries to stop her. Though fired, Lettice refuses to go without a fight. Watch as Lettice and Lotte engage in a battle to the death of all that is sacred to the Empire and to the Crown.

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PHOTO/KERRY ANDERSON

The shop offers everything from holiday decorations to lamps to fabric.

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retaining the shop’s historic character and classic flavor. He often assists clients in choosing fabrics for upholstery, among other design advice. Schafer said that he has always been a visual person, and utilizes his experience and eye for what works in satisfying shop-

pers and clients.

“I love it,” Schafer said. “It hardly feels like work.”

Every piece of furniture in Market Square Shop has a story, and several items belonged to the shop’s original owners. Marjorie Land and Joan Miller established the shop in 1952 on Cameron Street, bringing their experience and relation-

ships with clients from their previous work at Little Caledonia in Georgetown.

In 1956, Land and her husband bought the current property on King Street, moving the shop there as they raised their family above it. The building itself represents Alexandria’s history, built by French merchant Bernard Chequire in the

late 18th century.

Schafer met the original owners through family relationships. Over time, he bought their stakes in the shop, becoming the full owner in 1995. While incorporating his own flair and taste into the shop, he has endeavored to maintain Market Square Shop much as it was under Land’s and Mill-

er’s management. Many items have remained in exactly the same spot for decades, providing long-time customers with a feeling of continuity and comfort.

The shop has survived many changes in society and the local community, partly by adapting and partly by staying true to its historical roots. Schafer noted that the major changes in lifestyles that have occurred during the last 70 years have prompted the shop’s owners to adjust with the times. Women have shifted from largely being full-time homemakers 70 years ago to being about as likely as their husbands to have professional careers outside the home in 2023.

In addition to sociological changes, the overall style of today is much more relaxed than it was in the 1950s. People now tend to prefer more casual home furnishings with open floor plans; for example, dining rooms have become far less popular and, in homes that still have a separate dining room, less formal than in years gone by. Bridal registries once listed many more formal items than they do today. In perhaps the biggest challenge, online retail has become an existential threat to brick-and-mortar stores like Market Square Shop.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed yet another threat that Schafer’s business had to endure. The store was closed for a few months in the spring of 2020 as part of broader business closures at the time.

While the pandemic presented some business issues, Schafer noted that it also demonstrated the downside to open-plan spaces, which he said could revive some interest in more traditional décor and home design. Supply chain problems for stores selling furniture also highlighted the value of refurbishing old furniture rather than waiting months for something new.



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Additionally, Old Town has changed around Market Square Shop. When the shop was first established, “downtown” Alexandria was not viewed as an upscale place to live or own a business. In the 1950s, trains still ran through the Wilkes Street Tunnel, and there were abandoned buildings, a power station and warehouses along the waterfront.

Over time, Old Town evolved into a nicer place to live, becoming “a very lovely historic village,” as Schafer put it. Filled with families and individuals, the core of Old Town was “charming, affordable and quiet,” Schafer said. For many residents of Old Town, today there remains a sense of a neighborhood where people know each other.

Accelerating development in Old Town in recent years has brought more change. Development of the waterfront and

increases in housing units potentially bring more business and tax revenue to the area but also stress existing infrastructure – especially for areas that were initially designed for mid-18th century life.

Schafer added that rising property prices are a huge challenge for many Old Town businesses, especially those that are unable to quickly and consistently turn a profit. He is concerned that the area will lose more of its small, independent stores.

Schafer noted that many retail stores today offer very little in terms of service but that “many businesses here in Old Town still provide individual service.” He hopes that Old Town will not lose its unique character.

“Part of retail or customer service is being knowledgeable about what you’re selling,” Schafer said. “It takes interest and commitment.”

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PHOTO/KERRY ANDERSON

Bruce Schafer has been the full owner of Market Square Shop since 1995.

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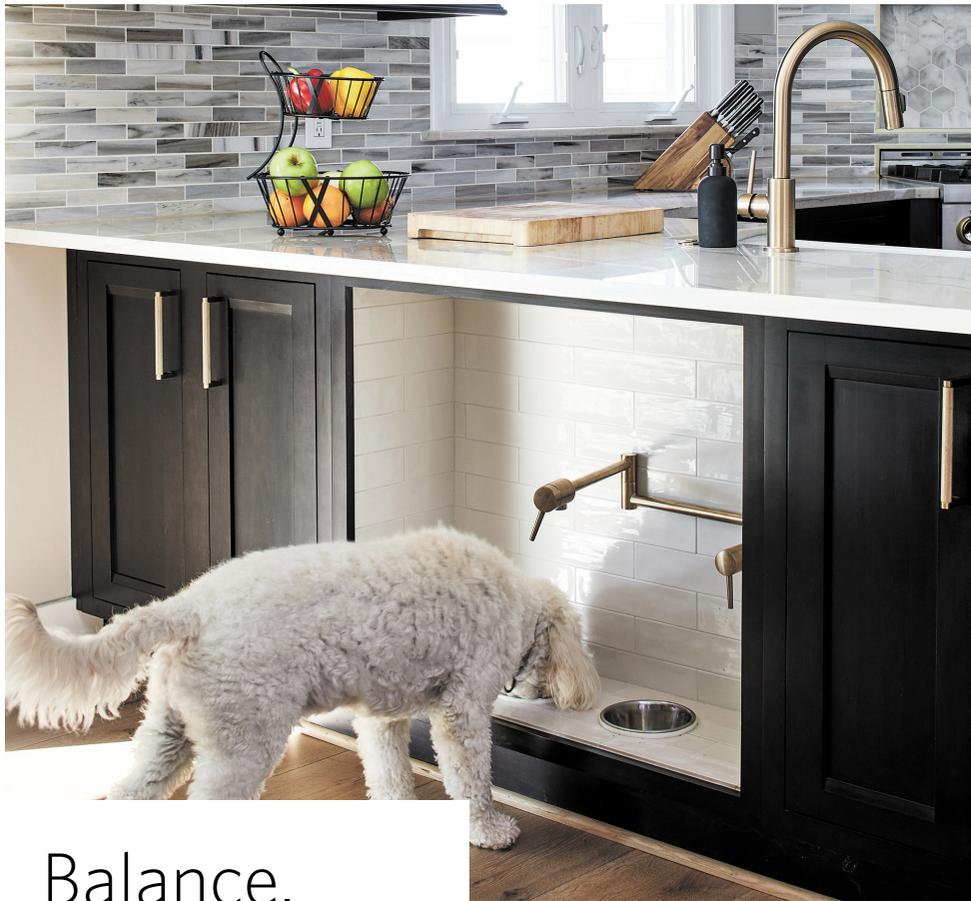
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“... [we should be] understanding the potential relationships that that would have on home values in either direction.”

– Sarah Bagley, city councilor

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LEGISLATIVE

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Specifically, \$302.66 million came from multi-family rentals, \$256.03 million came from single-family residential units and \$19.19 million came from commercial buildings.

At one point during the meeting, Councilor Sarah Bagley asked if staff looked at whether certain types of development impacted home values during analysis. Staff admitted to not having examined that specifically, but Director of Finance Kendel Taylor said that the data demonstrated that “across the city, we’re seeing appreciation without getting into the specifics.”

“The point we like to make is no matter where you live or what kind of home you have, this is an attractive place to live and properties are valuable,” Taylor said.

“I guess where I’m going with it is as we get into zoning for housing and we’re talking about potential changes and we’re building types, [we should be] understanding the potential relationships that that would have on home values in either direction,” Bagley said. “I appreciate the goal here tonight, but [I’m] just tying these things



SARAH BAGLEY

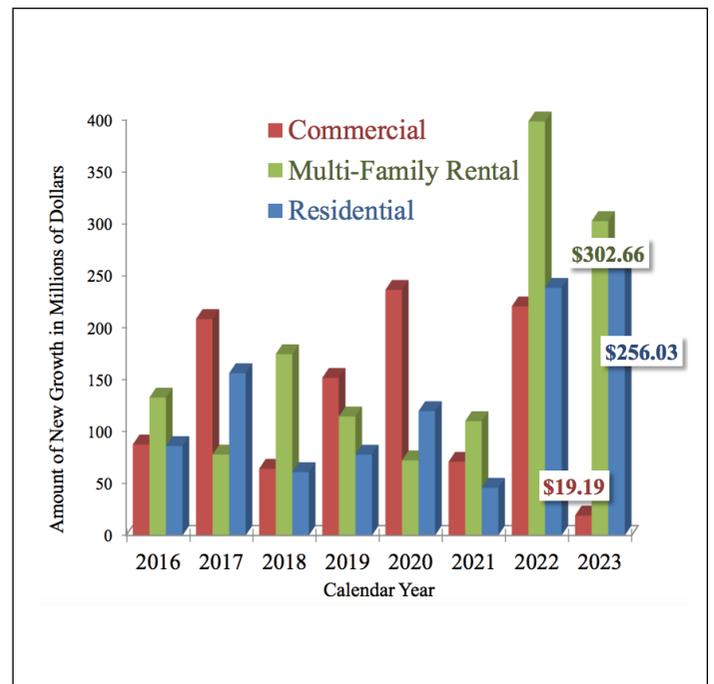
together philosophically when we’re able.”

When it comes to the city’s commercial tax base, staff characterized the 1.97% increase as fairly steady. Apartments, hotels, shopping centers, general commercial buildings and warehouses all saw tax increases from last year, ranging from 1.19% to 9.81%.

Hotels enjoyed the highest increase, which Annwyn Milnes, a representative from the finance department’s Office of Real Estate Assessments, partially attributed to recovery from the COVID-19 as travel has picked up. She also noted that a big portion of the increase is because of new hotel growth.

“Much of the change is really due to new hotels com-

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PHOTO/CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

New growth in the city led to a \$577.88 million increase.

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ing into the system and being built in 2022. The hotels actually appreciated about 2%,” Milnes said, adding that apartments also appreciated about 2% due to “modestly increasing rents.”

However, office buildings’ value decreased by 10.01%, which Milnes attributed to a shift in the way many people work post-pandemic. Hybrid or fully remote work has resulted in continued increases in vacancy, the anticipation that this change will likely be long-term, and more conversions to other uses – the latter indicating only a slight market decline in office buildings.

“Teleworking has suppressed demand for older Class B and Class C inventory offices in particular, and that happens to be the office building stock we have here in the city,” Milnes said. “... So, really, even though you see that big decrease in the office buildings, most of the decrease is due to conversions and changes, and really they only depreciated about 2%.”

Councilor Kirk McPike questioned how the decline in office building value compares

with neighboring localities, to which Milnes and Taylor said they don’t currently have but will work toward obtaining.

“I’d be interested in seeing that because we talk a lot about the viability of Alexandria’s office space compared to some of Arlington, D.C.,” McPike said. “If we’re seeing a wave of conversions which is driving this down, I do wonder how that’s impacting.”

According to Taylor, the City of Alexandria was one of the top five cities in the country for conversion as of last year, with the primary conversion types being office to residential.

There has been \$321 million in new growth among all commercial property classes, with the largest portion belonging to apartments. Recently completed construction projects include the Alexan at 286 units, the Venue Condominiums at 123 flats and 41 townhouses, 801 North Condominium at 54 units, the Muse Condominium at 73 condo units, the View on Washington Condominium at 13 condo units, and Abingdon Place Condominium at 19 townhouse units.

Additionally, several proj-

ects are currently under construction, such as the AKA Hotel, the Grayson, the Holiday Inn Express, the Aspire, the Heron Hotel, 805 North Columbus, the Braystone Condominiums and the Aidan.

Some proposed projects include converting 901 North Pitt from office to mixed-use redevelopment, Tidelock from office to 234 units and a restaurant, and the Montgomery Center to a multifamily space with retail and art space.

During deliberation, Wilson noted that the “non-residential commercial development

pipeline has never been lower.”

“You look at those numbers, and to have a quarter of a billion of residential single family and condo growth, and another 300 million of commercial multi-family and then 19 million in non is pretty stark,” Wilson said. “So that will inform more conversations to come, I’m sure.”

Every property owner in the city has two opportunities to contest their assessment; the first is to request a review with the Office of Real Estate Assessments by March 15, and the second is to file an appeal

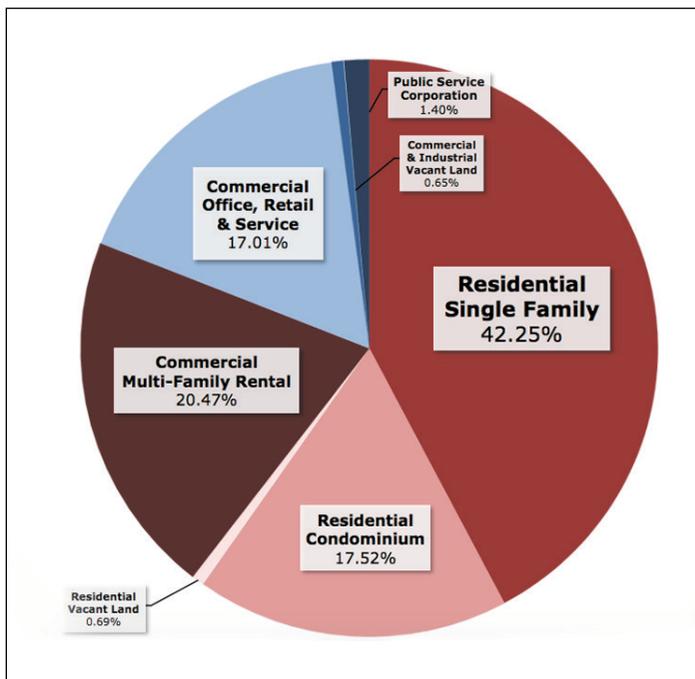
with the Board of Equalization by June 1. To review their assessments, residents can visit realestate.alexandriava.gov.

City Manager Jim Parajon will present the FY 2024 proposed budget to City Council on Feb. 28.

Bagley made a motion to receive the 2023 real property assessments report, which Councilor John Chapman seconded.

“We recognize that this is a long period of work, but it starts another very significant period of work,” Wilson said.

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PHOTO/CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

2023 real estate tax base breakdown.

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Tying the Knot



COURTESY PHOTO

John and Monika Chapman were married at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond.

Simmer to boil

Romance was a long time in the making for City Councilor John Chapman and wife Monika

Monika and John Chapman's love story is a slow burn. Though they married in 2019, the couple had known each other for about a decade prior to tying the knot. Theirs is a story crafted with binged television shows, local politics and the benefit of time.

After years of gradually getting to know one another, their kindling finally grew into a hardy fire and it simply made sense for them to finally wed.

John is a fourth-generation Alexandrian who graduated from St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School and St. Olaf College with a

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

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Tying the Knot

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bachelor's degree in social studies education. Meanwhile, Monika, who is a lifelong Virginian but moved to the city in 2006, earned her bachelor's de-

gree from George Mason University in government and international politics and master's from George Washington University's Elliott School for International Affairs.

Both are civically engaged,

with John currently serving his fourth term on City Council and Monika having served for many years on the city's Human Rights Commission and Commission for Women.

Although John and Monika

do not remember exactly when they first met since they knew of each other for a while before dating, it occurred when John was involved with the Alexandria Young Democrats. The two would see each other and chat at events around town – several of which were hosted by Rob Krupicka, who at the time was a city councilor.

After one event John and Monika hung out with some friends at Los Tios, a local Del Ray restaurant, where something surprising happened that the couple now looks back on with amusement.

"That's the one I always mess with her about because one of our mutual friends had tried to talk to her and kind of push me out of the way," John said, laughing.

"We were sitting beside each other, and I remember his friend actually pulled up a chair from another table and put it in between us," Monika added. "I mean, it wasn't like, 'Oh I really want to sit beside John,' it was just really awkward because

there were other seats available. It was intentional[ly] putting the seat there."

Despite the temporary road bump, John and Monika still found their way to one another and began dating. Early on, they found common ground in their mutual political activation and affinity for binge watching television shows.

For example, one show that captured their attention was "Breaking Bad," which they would eagerly watch episode after episode. Another was "Game of Thrones;" after catching up to the current season, John would go over to Monika's every Sunday evening to watch the most recent episode.

"We really bonded over some of the T.V. shows," John said.

The courting process was aided by the fact that John and Monika had shared friends who were able to vet and vouch for both of them.

SEE CHAPMAN

| 13



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COURTESY PHOTO

Monika and John still receive birthday cards from their wedding cake designer.

Tying the Knot

CHAPMAN FROM | 12

“We had folks that knew each other so I was able to be like, ‘Tell me about this John guy,’” Monika said.

Gradually, those dates tipped from casual and fun to committed. After dating off and on for about five years, John decided it was time to propose. They had officially entered a more serious phase of their relationship, solidified by a Google Drive Monika had sent to John with suggested rings.

“I was surprised but, you know, I was waiting,” Monika said. “We had definitely talked about it, but I was surprised that day. I had no idea what was happening that day.”

The day in question also happened to be a Wizard’s game. John and Monika were in attendance as they had season tickets, but little did Monika know, John also had the ring in his pocket.

However, there was one hiccup: John remembered that

Monika previously mentioned that she did not want to get engaged in front of thousands of people at a sporting event.

“I thought about that but then I was like, ‘Oh no, she might say no, because of all these people,’” John recalled.

So instead, he waited until they returned to her apartment after the game. They talked for a bit, and then after John felt that the mood was right, he got down on one knee and in May 2017 asked Monika to spend the rest of her life with him. She said yes.

Much like the early phase of their relationship, the wedding planning process unfolded slowly. Over the next two years, they looked at a variety of florists, oscillated between a couple of potential wedding dates and perused several locations.

The big day finally took place in Richmond in March 2019 at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. There were no wedding crashers, which was one of John’s concerns had the wedding been in Alexandria.

“Honestly, one of my worries was that if I had it in Alexandria and people knew where it was, people would just crash the wedding and crash the reception and do all that stuff,” John said. “... You could have people just drop by because it’s a council member or whatever reason people choose to do stuff they do, so getting it out of Alexandria wasn’t a bad thing.”

In a comical yet bemusing turn of events, the couple’s wedding planner moved from assuming the role of coordinator to full-blown guest over the course of the wedding day. According to Monika, she had done an excellent job when it came to planning, communicating and being proactive, but as the day progressed, the wedding planner paid slightly more attention to the party than to her duties.

“She took a liking to some of the guys at the wedding and transitioned from planning

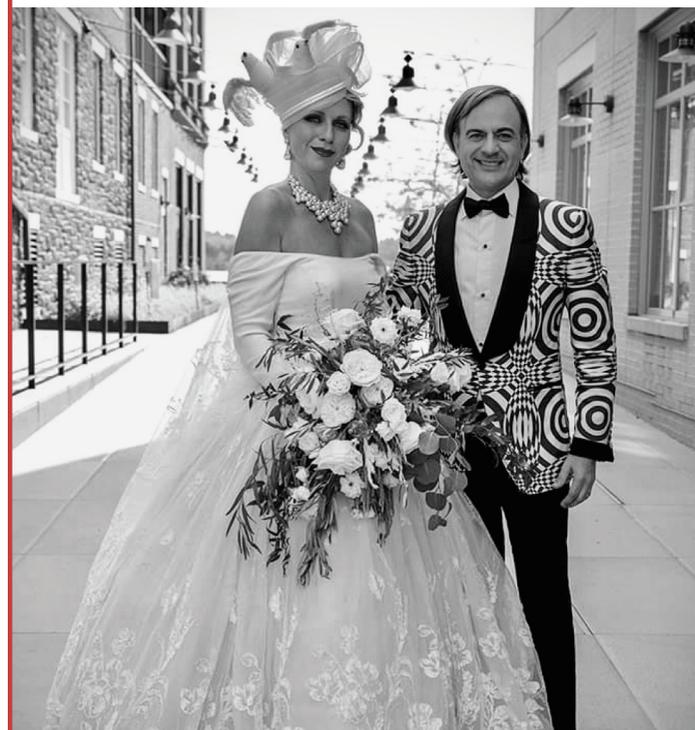
SEE CHAPMAN | 14



COURTESY PHOTO

John and Monika Chapman and John Chapman II at the ice skating rink.

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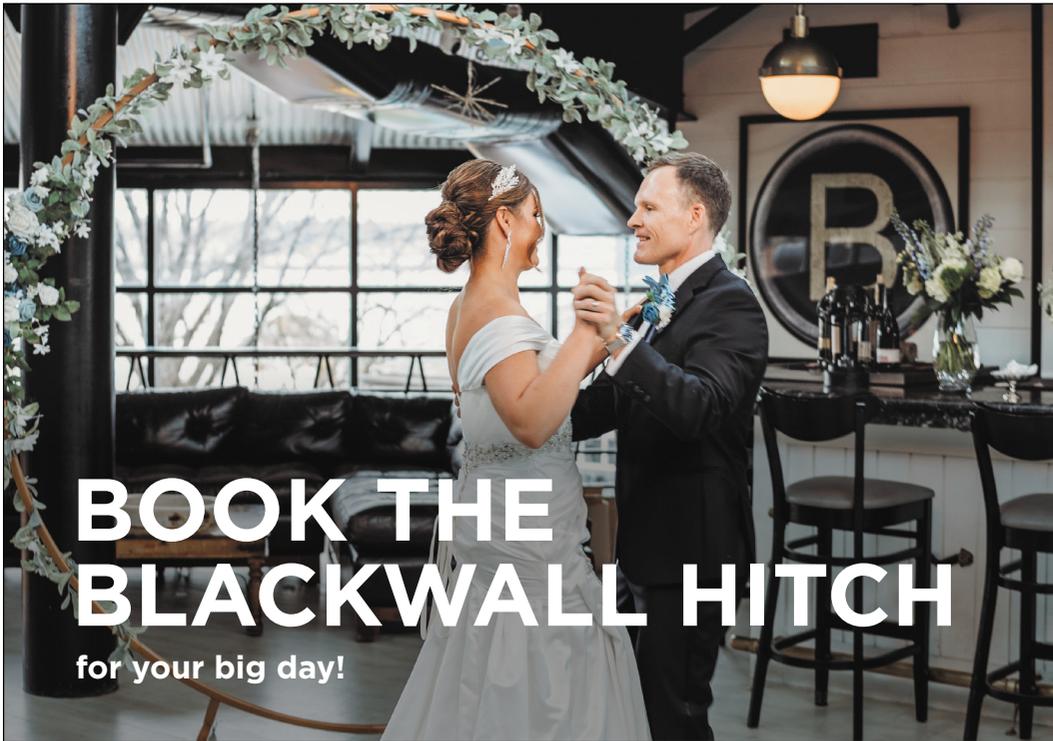
CHAPMAN FROM | 13
wedding to being guest of wedding to meet people,” Monika said. “... This was at the wedding. She was on the clock. We looked back at the pictures

and were like, ‘Oh, yep, there she is!’”
Overall, though, the wedding was a roaring success. Part of the art museum was open for exploration during the cocktail hour, which proved to be popular among guests, and after the marriage ceremony everyone danced the night away for hours. To this day, the couple receives birthday cards from the person who designed their wedding cake.

ular among guests, and after the marriage ceremony everyone danced the night away for hours. To this day, the couple receives birthday cards from the person who designed their wedding cake.

“I will say, we had a beautiful wedding,” Monika said. “We loved it and everyone was so great, so it worked out.”
It has been almost exactly four years since John and Monika got married, and Monika said she hopes that this is the year they’re finally able to catch their breath. The months following their wedding were a whirlwind, as they had just

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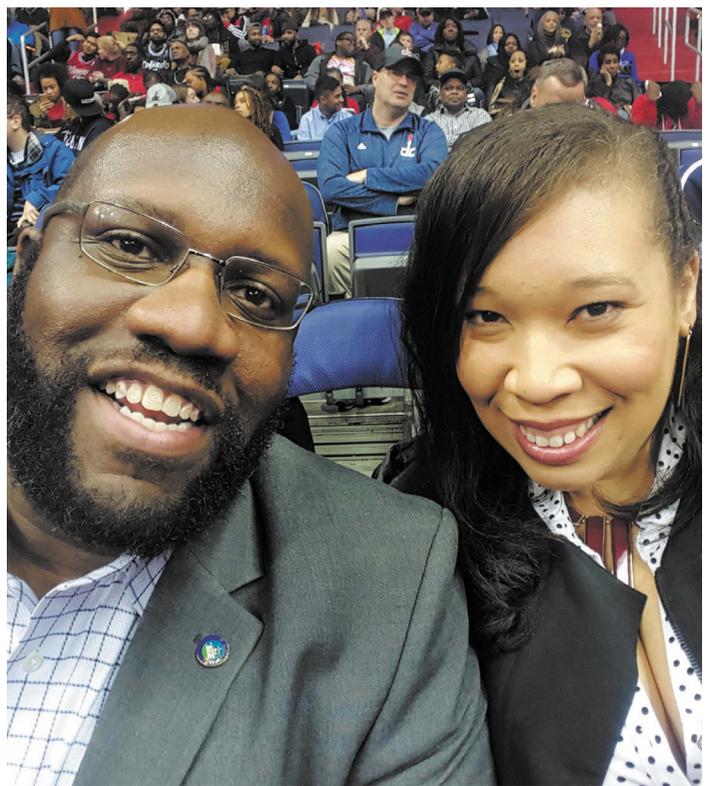
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Overview of the Potomac River
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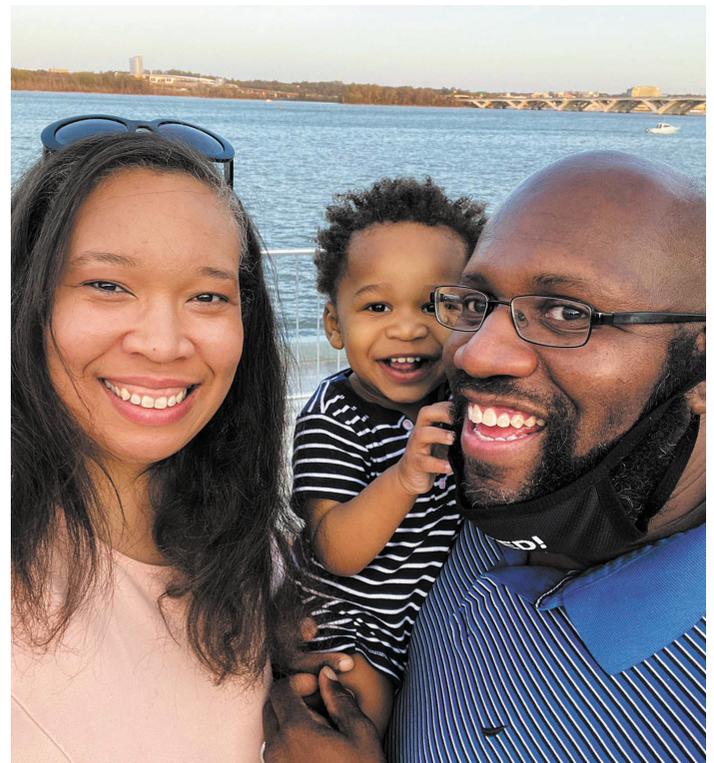
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COURTESY PHOTO

John and Monika attend many Wizards basketball games.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Chapmans' son, John II, was born on Feb. 8, 2020.



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Tying the Knot

CHAPMAN FROM | 14

moved in and learned they were pregnant with their first child, John II, who would be born a year later on Feb. 8, 2020.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, which shut down Alexandria and the U.S. for several months and continues to cause disruptions.

"I felt like every six months there was something big that was happening, and not like someone [getting] a job promotion or something like that, but a global pandemic and [having] a child," Monika said. "So, I think we're hopeful in year four that we'll not have the big major [changes] and we can just enjoy family and things like that."

Between raising their three-year-old son, full-time jobs – John as a career educator for Fairfax County Public Schools and Monika as a civilian managing international programs

with the U.S. Department of Defense – and John serving on City Council, the pair has their hands full.

"With any relationship it's really about time spent with somebody, so if you're balancing city meetings and even events that we went to took a different feel. When some of us go to these bigger events or galas we're there meeting people, shaking hands and having conversations – it's a lot different from being there with your significant other, and you two enjoying the event," John said.

But in their down time John and Monika found a way to prioritize their relationship, and it looks a lot like it did when they first started dating: bonding by watching television shows together. It might sound small to some, Monika noted, but it's a big deal for them due to the constant running around that is their daily routine.

They've also determined

that a foundation of trust and empathy is integral to the success of their relationship. Because John and Monika lead exceedingly busy lives, they often try to put themselves in the other's shoes and come from a

place of understanding.

"If there's activities or events that are pulling some attention away on days, understanding what that means and what your partner is doing and being supportive of that is re-

ally important," Monika said. "... We all have stressors and things that are impacting, and [we have] understanding that it's a temporary thing and not [get] stuck on it."

-oanderson@alextimes.com



COURTESY PHOTO

Monika and John dated on and off for five years before getting engaged in May 2017.

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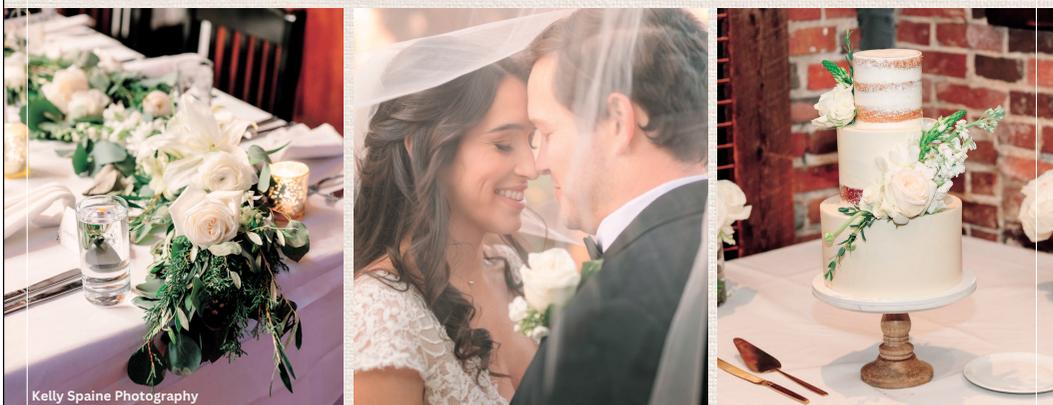
Tying the Knot



FILE PHOTO

A DJ will play your favorite songs exactly as you're used to hearing them and take up less space than a traditional band.

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Saying 'I Do' to a DJ

The pros and cons of hiring a DJ for your wedding

BY LESLIE GOLDEN

Weddings are a sacred tradition where two souls join and promise to love, honor and cherish each other for the rest of their lives. And then it's time to party! Planning your reception includes decisions on flowers, food and music as well as deciding to take that first dance with a five-piece live band or to the tunes of a DJ's playlist. Depending on a variety of factors such as budget, venue space and personal taste, there are pros and cons to both.

A band offers a traditional feel with the excitement and spontaneity of a live performance. The bandleader can offer his or her rendition of your favorite song or croon a well-known classic in their own style. A DJ will play your favorite songs exactly as you are used to hearing them, so there are no surprises.

You'll want to research potential entertainers before hiring them for your big day. Local DJ Dauson Tate suggests brides and grooms check out a potential DJ's style and experience a night of music curated and delivered by the emcee before they decide on whether to go the DJ route.

"If I don't have a gig scheduled before their wedding where they have a chance to

see me work, I offer to come to any gatherings they may have on their calendar and DJ the event for free to give them a feel for how I DJ," Tate said. "I usually try to understand the genre of music the bride and groom want and then I will expand their list by listening to hours and hours of music. After I have curated an extensive number of songs, I go through the final playlist and listen to everything together to make sure all the transitions sound perfect."

The location of your reception site may factor into who you choose. A band will want a stage and enough space for their singers, microphones and gear. If space at your reception venue is limited, DJs tend to have a smaller footprint.

"I usually bring in speakers depending on how big the wedding is, but I also come with my own controller and it's powered by my laptop," Tate said.

Whether you go with a DJ or a band, you'll want to make sure they help set the tone for your reception with loads of fun and great energy. According to Tate, the key to any successful wedding is maintaining a joyful environment.

"My ideal atmosphere for a wedding is very energetic and exciting. Everyone that attends a wedding should have a smile on their face at all times," Tate said.

-lgolden@alextimes.com

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Times Living

‘The Last of Us’ hits mark

HBO adaptation of iconic video game shines with great casting, writing

BY ANDREW DUNBAR

Making a live adaptation of a popular video game has proven to be a uniquely difficult task for filmmakers. The recent mediocrity of the “Uncharted” adaptation further demonstrated this challenge. Many video game aficionados would be quick to tell you that the medium simply doesn’t translate to live action and ought to be left alone. However, a new program on HBO seems set on changing the narrative and lifting “the video game curse.”

“The Last of Us” premiered on Jan. 15 to a massive – albeit hesitant – audience. The 2013 video game of the same title is arguably the most beloved single-player game ever made. It tells the story of a fungal infection that turns humans into monsters and wipes out most of the world’s population. Protagonist Joel Miller’s world is thrown upside down in the events of the outbreak.

After 20 years of hard survival in this apocalyptic world, Miller is tasked with transporting a girl named Ellie, who is seemingly immune to the virus, across the country. Its gripping story, immersive setting and compelling characters ensure its status as a classic.

A decade later, it is still being lauded for its role in pushing the boundaries of video game storytelling. Longtime fans of the game were miffed

when the show was announced in 2020 – many would have told you that the game was already a cinematic enough experience, and trying to adapt it to film just seemed like a cash grab.

Then, more information on the series started to roll out; it was being co-written by Neil Druckmann, the head writer and creative director of the first and second games, and would star Pedro Pascal (“The Mandalorian,” “Narcos”) and Bella Ramsey (“Game of Thrones”) as protagonists Joel and Ellie. This information, combined with a great teaser trailer, had fans cautiously optimistic.

A week into February, four episodes have aired and each one has been remarkable – this is not merely a good video game adaptation, but a great television show. The pilot does an excellent job of drawing audiences in from the get go, spending more time in the pre-outbreak world and providing more information on the virus itself. Much of the first episode is spent drawing out tension before society’s inevitable collapse. Once it does, the show adds more spectacle than its video game counterpart, helped by a whopping budget of \$15 million per episode.

But do not be fooled: although the cinematography and special effects look polished, detailed and realistic, much of the show’s opening episodes are spent in contained settings developing its characters.

Both lead actors have great

chemistry on screen. Pascal is at the height of his craft in his performance as Joel. He realistically portrays a gruff, bereaved man with subtlety and emotion. He and Ramsey did not have an easy task, as they had to fill the shoes of two already beloved characters while adding their own style and personality.

Pascal does a great job of capturing Joel’s amorality while still displaying moments of vulnerability. Ramsey’s acting is equally effective, as much of the show’s success was riding on her portrayal of Ellie. She brings spirit, humor and depth to her performance. Also phenomenal in “Game of Thrones,” Ramsey truly is a young actress to watch in the coming years.

It should be noted that the show is accessible to new viewers who are unfamiliar with the video game. The virus is well explained and characters are thoroughly introduced, though the filmmakers do sprinkle in Easter eggs and references for longtime fans. Many lines of dialogue are lifted directly, and part of episode two is a complete recreation of one of the early levels of the game.

While staying largely faithful to the original story, the show does expand on several aspects, and for the most part these changes are welcome. Without giving away any spoilers, episode three marks the largest diversion from the source material, and it is the best episode in the series so far.

The post-apocalyptic set-



PHOTO/HBO MAX

Both old and new fans can enjoy HBO’s ‘The Last of Us’ without any prior knowledge of the iconic video game.

ting is truly brought to life; the desolate landscapes and deadly infected feel more real than most shows or movies with a similar “zombie virus” premise. Rows of empty streets, abandoned cars and overgrown vegetation give off a sense of sadness and loss, and Boston’s portrayal as a federally operated quarantine zone is a sight to see.

“The Last of Us” is not for the faint of heart. Like the game it is based on, the show is scary and violent, not only because of its zombie-like infected, but in its portrayal of the depths of human depravity in the event

of society’s collapse. The infected are genuinely frightening, and any viewers unsettled by a well-portrayed pandemic in the wake of COVID-19 may wish to sit this one out.

But like the game, bloodshed isn’t the focus, or what makes it great. This story holds a surprising amount of heart, and old and new fans accompanying Joel and Ellie on their journey will be delighted.

The writer is an audio engineer, freelance writer and lover of music and video games. He can be reached at awdunbar23@gmail.com.

SENIORS



FILE PHOTO

Encountering love later in life can help teach us about ourselves.

The age of love

The benefits of dating later in life

BY ASHLEY JOHNSON, M.A.



ASHLEY JOHNSON

It was New Year's Eve 2018, and my best friend and I had just finished our semi-traditional dinner at the nearby Crab Shack. My nana lived not too far from the restaurant. It had been almost three years since she moved out of her home of more than 30 years and downsized to a chic one-bedroom apartment. My grandfather was her protector and best friend and after he passed away in 2012, she grieved as gracefully as she could and eventually began to learn how to love after loss.

I made a phone call to her that evening, "Hey, I'm in the area. Can I stop by to freshen up before I go out tonight?" My call was a courtesy, as I had a key to her apartment. I re-

spected her independence and often basked in awe of her new and brave journey of moving to a new city, making friends and joining social groups. I was not expecting her response: "Can't you stop at a fueling station? I have company. DO NOT come by."

My surprise was less about her denial to my visitation request and more about her "special company" that took

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| 19

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SENIORS

SENIORS FROM | 18

precedence over her favorite granddaughter. Clearly, this was a special night for her. With mixed emotions, I replied, “OK, have fun and be safe. Love you.”

Love and romance in later life are often seen and referred to as comical, impractical and overall non-existent. However, research shows that there are a variety of positive impacts and possibilities when it comes to late life lovers. Researchers, such as Amanda Barusch, who specializes in the experiences of older adults, conclude that love is seen as a force for change:

- The feelings and experiences accompanying late romantic love create opportunities for personal insight; it teaches us about ourselves, our needs and our vulnerabilities.

- Love can be used as training for relationship skills; we learn to adapt, compromise

and reciprocate; in later life, we learn to confront boundaries of personal control and let go.

- Love often reveals our unknown capabilities and stretches us beyond our comfort zone.

- Late love provides the opportunity for self-reflection and proves that romance is truly a testament that we are still growing.

Love is in the air here in Alexandria. I encourage you to explore love after loss or maybe even discover it for the first time. Join a social group, a book club or a wine-tasting class. One important lesson learned from my Nana is that companionship is necessary and desired. So let’s dispel the myths and defeat stereotypes of dating and love in later life.

The writer is deputy division chief and long-term care coordinator for the city’s Division of Aging and Adult Services.



FILE PHOTO

Even in later life, we can still grow from being in romantic relationships.

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PHOTO/BRANDPOINT

To keep day-to-day dirt and grit off your floors, aim to sweep or vacuum weekly.

Mastering maintenance

Tips to make your hardwood floors last

BY BRANDPOINT

Solid hardwood floors are beautiful and timeless, adding value to any property. However, there's a misconception that real hardwood floors are difficult to maintain. The truth is that they can last for decades, as long as you follow a few simple steps on a regular schedule.

In fact, the time that goes into maintaining hardwood floors isn't much more extensive than any other flooring material. The key is to practice regular care and cleaning for your hardwood to keep grit and dirt from scratching the wood.

Tools, tips and tricks

Start with the fundamental

tools for caring for hardwood flooring: a dust mop for everyday cleaning, a vacuum for weekly cleaning and a micro-fiber mop that can get damp – not wet – for monthly deep cleaning.

To keep day-to-day dirt and grit off your floors, aim to sweep or vacuum weekly. When using a vacuum for regular cleanings, opt for a soft floor attachment or hardwood setting that disengages the beater bar, which is the bar that rotates when cleaning carpet. By disengaging it on hardwood and avoiding a vacuum or attachment with hard bristles, you can avoid any scuffing or scratching of your floors.

If you have heavy furniture

SEE **HARDWOOD**

| 21

HOME OF THE WEEK



COURTESY PHOTOS

Left: Facade facing Belle Haven Country Club. **Middle:** A brick fireplace with great exposure. **Right:** Professionally landscaped back yard.

Charming townhome in Belle Haven

This lovely stone and brick townhome offers four bedrooms, three and a half bathrooms and an eat-in kitchen, in the sought-after community of Olde Belhaven

Towne just across from the gorgeous Belle Haven Country Club and golf course. Well maintained by its long-term owner, the home offers quality construction, an excellent

floor plan, an inviting walk-out lower level and charming brick enclosed patio. It's in a wonderful location and has easy access to transportation as well as a full array of com-

mercial and retail establishments. This home has been professionally painted, has refinished hardwood floors on two levels, a large family room, two fireplaces and recent roof. At this price point, you can create your own personal touches!

AT A GLANCE

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CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 16

LECTURE AND FILM: FORT RENO PARK Learn about the history of Fort Reno Park, which once was a bustling neighborhood where Black men, women and children lived, died, worked and played. Brian Taylor, Miriam Gusevich and Martin Paddock will share their work on the history of the neighborhood and efforts to bring it to the public.

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: 201 S. Washington St.

Information: visitalexandria.com/events/lecture-short-film-fort-reno-park

FEBRUARY 18

WASHINGTON REVELS JUBILEE VOICES 2023
The Washington Revels

Jubilee Voices ensemble, which is committed to the preservation of African American history and traditions, will present songs and stories of struggle and perseverance, trials and triumphs as expressed through a cappella music, drama and dance.

Time: 2 p.m.

Location: 201 S. Washington St.

Information: shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx

WHOLE SELF HEALTH: TIPS TO PRIORITIZE WELLNESS

This workshop will help attendees understand what simple habits you do each day have the biggest impact on overall health and well-being. Health and wellness coach Heather Jenkins will share ways to reduce stress

and prioritize self-care.

Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: 533 Montgomery St.

Information: madeinalx.com/product/whole-body-wellness/2533

FEBRUARY 20

CHRIST CHURCH OPEN HOUSE George Washington owned a box pew in a 250-year-old Episcopal church and often attended services there, as did numerous U.S. Presidents who followed him. Visitors are invited to stop by and sit in his box pew.

Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: 118 N. Washington St.

Information: visitalexandria.com/events/christ-church-open-house

FRIENDSHIP VETERANS FIRE ENGINE ASSOCIATION BREAKFAST Meet special guests and enjoy a hearty breakfast with members of this historic association. Guest speaker Doug Bradburn, director of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, will discuss the "The 'Great Experiment' and Ongoing Legacy of George Washington."

Time: 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Location: 400 Courthouse Square

Information: visitalexandria.com/events/friendship-veterans-fire-engine-association-breakfast

REDEDICATION OF THE GW MASONIC NATIONAL MEMORIAL'S CORNERSTONE Join thousands of people from around the country as the George Washington

Masonic National Memorial celebrates the 100th anniversary of its cornerstone ceremony.

Time: 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Location: 101 Callahan Drive

Information: washingtonbirthday.com

FEBRUARY 25

LETTICE AND LOVAGE AT THE LITTLE THEATRE OF ALEXANDRIA Written by the author of Equus and Amadeus, this comedy satire centers around an exuberant tour guide who loves to embellish the history behind an English country house. All patrons are required to wear a mask, even if vaccinated.

Time: 8 p.m.

Location: 600 Wolfe St.

Information: thelittletheatre.com

HARDWOOD FROM | 20

placed directly on your hardwood, be sure to use felt pads on the feet to avoid scratches and replace them regularly. This also includes furniture that is moved frequently, such as dining room chairs. Strive to do a deep clean monthly to ensure you pick up the dirt and grime that inevitably forms over time.

What to avoid

Relative to most other flooring materials, solid hardwood is sensitive to moisture, whether that be due to wet shoes or just changes in humidity. Therefore, it's important to keep any amount of standing water off the planks.

That means ditch the traditional mop and bucket, which can leave behind water that could cause your floors to

swell, crack or splinter.

Another critical thing to avoid is harsh cleaning solutions which include ingredients like chlorine bleach, ammonia, pine oil or undiluted vinegar. These can dull your floors by affecting the protective finish, causing lasting damage.

By following these simple steps, your hardwood floor should stay in good shape for many years to come.



FILE PHOTO

Solid hardwood is sensitive to moisture, so avoid using a mop and bucket to prevent damage.

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Our View

By the numbers

Objective conclusions are difficult to come by these days. That's one impression we take away from city staff's presentation of 2023 property values in Alexandria – residential, multi-family rental and other commercial – to City Council on Tuesday night.

After receiving the presentation at the legislative meeting, Councilor Sarah Bagley asked for more information so as to best tie the data together “philosophically” – which many would take to mean “ideologically.” A study from the Urban Institute was cited in the discussion.

It's important to note that while nonprofit organizations of all stripes are required to be nonpartisan, they are most certainly not unbiased. Many to most engage in some sort of advocacy, which is almost invariably ideologically driven.

A lot is at stake in this data surrounding property values, as many pro- and anti-density advocates in Alexandria would like to use it as evidence for their preferred position on whether increased density is good or bad for the city.

What does the data say on face value? That the value of properties of all categories – single-family, multi-family and commercial – rose, some significantly, in Alexandria in 2022. This should come as no surprise to anyone given that the overall rate of inflation nationwide for the year ending in December was 6.5%.

More instructive is the breakdown between single-family, multi-family and other commercial values. Keep in mind that the numbers discussed here and in our page one story, “Property assessments presented to council,” include both new buildings as well as appreciation of current properties.

In a nutshell, single-family properties – that is, single-family homes, townhomes and condos – increased in value by 5.02% in Alexandria last year. A small percentage of that growth in value, a little more than one-sixth of the total, came from new buildings, while the rest came from appreciation.

Multi-family rental buildings increased in value by even more, 6.19%, with high rise apartment buildings increasing in value by a whopping 11.43% year-over-year from calendar year 2022 to 2023. Much of that value spike appears to be from new construction. Garden and mid-rise apartments increased in value by much lower rates of 3.46% and .82%, respectively.

Conversely, the value of commercial office buildings in Alexandria declined by more than 10% from 2022 to 2023, which dragged Alexandria's overall property value growth down to a 3.82% increase.

Our non-philosophical takeaways from these numbers:

1) Single-family homeowners are bearing an increasing load of the tax burden in Alexandria, and that's not going to end anytime soon. The good news is that single-family homeowners have properties that are on average worth 5% more now than this time last year. The bad news is that, unless these families intend to cash out their profits in the near term, that simply means another large increase in their tax bill.

While single-family homeowners have a valuable asset that is increasing significantly in value each year, many of these families are also “house-poor:” home maintenance, taxes and the overall cost of living in Northern Virginia leaves many people with limited cash flow to live on.

2) Much of the value increase of multi-family properties came from new construction of high-rise buildings. Conversely, the 3.46% increase in the value of garden apartments, which are by far the most common type of apartment building in Alexandria, is much more in line with the city's overall property value average.

Most apartment residents have lower incomes than those living in single-family homes, and that increase in value – and thus in the property taxes paid by the companies that own these buildings – will undoubtedly be passed along in the form of higher rent to low-income Alexandrians.

3) Alexandria's non-residential commercial real estate situation is a disaster.

Creative plans to convert unused office space to public and residential functions should accelerate. And some of these large, empty buildings should be torn down to create more open space in Alexandria.

Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson

Photo of the Week



PHOTO/LEE MOODY

A particularly colorful sunrise in Old Town last month.

Your Views

Unconvincing arguments for keeping Confederate names

To the editor:

Upon reading the letters from Jimm Roberts, “Keep the name, switch the fame,” on Jan. 19, and Carrie Devorah, “Tear no more names down,” on Feb. 2 concerning keeping the names of streets specifically named for Confederate military officers and men but changing the person for whom the street is named, I found them to be both unimpressive and unconvincing in their arguments.

I fail to see how someone who happens to share the same surname as the “Confederate 41” for whom the streets were named is going to be insulted that a street named after someone else is going to be changed. Likewise, I don't think anyone with the first name Jubal or Braxton is going to be offended either.

Likewise, I cannot agree that a one-time street name change is an enormous inconvenience for those people who live on the streets being renamed. I am a retired Air Force Colonel who was transferred 12 times while serving and have made three moves since my retirement. For each and every move I've had to change the addresses on my checkbooks, websites, bank records, brokerage records, credit cards, magazine subscriptions and tax records. There are hundreds of thousands of military people who do the same things regularly. It is aggravating but not difficult.

Keeping the Confederate names on the street signs as is, even if we pre-

SEE ERESMAN

| 23

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

Your Views

Key words missing from superintendent's column

To the editor:

Six hundred forty-two words from the interim superintendent of our public schools ran in the Feb. 9 Alexandria Times about “achieving equity in education” and there

was not one mention of any of the following: “excellence,” “score,” “high,” “math,” “science,” “technology” – I could go on.

–Kevin Bloomfield,
Alexandria

Time for a Justice Black museum

To the editor:

For many years, Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black lived on Lee Street in Alexandria. A distinguished jurist, Black shaped the unanimous school desegregation decision and championed civil liberties during the dark days of the McCarthy era.

Now is the time – past due time – for Alexandria to pay tribute to Justice Black. Interestingly, Black was an Alabaman who in his early years had been a member of the Klu Klux Klan, but moved on.

Instead of pursuing the mis-

guided goal of erasing the Confederacy from street names, City Council should shift gears and create a small Hugo Black museum with public and private funding. Imagine a museum with Justice Black's voice, combined with photographs and a bold narrative, that underscores the continuing need for civil rights and civil liberties, providing a model for other cities to emulate. In so doing we would have done something great for the country.

–Peter Bernstein,
Alexandria

ERESMAN

FROM | 22

tend to name them after someone else, is not a step that bonds or “unites” us but the opposite. Let me be very clear. In the midst of a nascent civil rights movement including cases that led to Brown vs. the Board of Education, the government of Alexandria, in an exercise of white supremacy, deliberately honored military people who in many cases violated their oaths to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and instead committed sedition and treason in the name of preserving slavery.

It does not matter whether they were pardoned or contributed to the nation after the war. The 1953 Alexandria Ordinance honored them for what they did in the Civil War. I think leaving the names of seditious enslavers on street signs as is and pretend they belong to someone else divides rather than unites.

The names are a continual reminder to those descendants of

slaves that the men “honored” on those street signs fought and killed to keep people in slavery. And that the 1953 street ordinance, explicitly directing the naming of streets after those men, was yet another expression of white supremacy.

I might also add that only changing the context and not the names on the signs honoring Confederates severely restricts the options available to those who might be honored for their service to this community. Certainly, there are Alexandrians who are not named Gordan or Hardee or Imboden or Jackson who have contributed much to this city and should be honored.

I fully support Mayor Justin Wilson's initiative but if Roberts' suggestion is to be considered, let's make sure that new street signs that completely spell out the person's full name are erected so that there can be no misinterpretation of who we are now honoring.

–Raymond S. Eresman,
Alexandria



City Hall Watch

with Bill Rossello

Policy by invective

BY BILL ROSSELLO

When one resorts to invective in policy debate, it's for one of two reasons. Either you're trying to put likely resistors back on their heels or you're losing the argument. In the great housing debate, density advocates may be doing both by referring to everyone else as “NIMBYs.”

Like any pejorative label assigned to a broad swath of society, NIMBY is a word used to attack. Literally standing for “not in my back yard,” just about every homeowner

in every city in America, irrespective of their political persuasion, is a NIMBY. Renters committed to their apartment complex for the long term are NIMBYs too. Essentially, a NIMBY is just about anyone who likes where they live.

Increasingly you will hear the word uttered by YIMBYs. Standing for “yes in my back yard,” a YIMBY seems to be someone with an ideology that runs against the grain of the vast majority. The publication Current Affairs described YIMBYs as “allies of developers who believe in letting the ‘free market’ determine what kind of housing will be built,” and as devotees of “free-market thinkers like [Ayn] Rand.”

Local YIMBYs often resort to invective against people they don't know and don't choose to. A YIMBY could care less about neighborhood fabric or character, the quality of life most residents sought when they chose their home or the rich history of places like Old Town, Del Ray or Woods Avenue.

They advocate for turning single-family home properties into places to build duplexes or small apartment buildings. They applaud the notion of inserting a high rise in a townhouse community, a second apartment tower in the parking lot of an existing one or apartments on school property. They don't care if the rest of you have to deal with more noise, parking problems, less open space or more traffic challenges. “Deal with it, NIMBY. You don't deserve what you worked so hard for.”

And a YIMBY also plays fast and

loose with the facts. If a YIMBY reads, it's generally the ruminations of some activist author focused on a history that no longer reflects reality in Alexandria, one that ends with the civil rights legislation of the 1960s. The progress made since is of no import to YIMBYs since it does not support their narrative.

They also invent new terms like “existing zoning tools,” those mechanisms that purportedly continue to keep people out of particular neighborhoods. And they speak of the city's emerging

“zoning toolbox,” those unproven policies that city officials claim will make housing more affordable, while finally ridding our increasingly diversifying neighborhoods of the systemic racism that so obviously exists, at least in their minds. In essence, YIMBY is a misnomer though, as they advocate more for “yes in your back yard” than in their own.

Local YIMBYs have their own ecosystem, led by the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments and the Urban Institute, their hired gun “think tank.” The ecosystem includes a host of other self-appointed movement leaders and non-profit housing advocacy groups that are sometimes funded by developers. Increasingly, the unelected members of the ecosystem work to influence what happens in the neighborhoods of local jurisdictions like Alexandria.

Because they're few in number, YIMBYs pose no threat on their own. The real threat is that city officials have allied themselves with the YIMBY movement in their push for ever greater density in Alexandria.

Their approach has been to use the YIMBY's invective as a policy weapon. Watch it play out as the so-called “Zoning for Housing” debate heats up this year. If you push back on city hall, expect the whole YIMBY ecosystem to come at you full force, and call you “NIMBY.” You won't know what hit you.

The writer is a civic advocate, management consultant and longtime Alexandria resident.



**BILL
ROSSELLO**

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African American history in the 800 block of Duke Street

The 800 block of Duke Street is one that captures the essence of what makes Old Town so charming. Stately homes that reflect the building trends of a city founded in 1749 are pleasantly accentuated by a generous tree canopy. Aside from beautiful architecture, Alexandria's history attracts visitors from across the world. This particular block has a lot of that history.

One of the most renowned former residents of the block, Dr. Albert Johnson, lived and practiced in 814, a brick, antebellum townhouse, from 1896 to 1940 in an African American neighborhood then known as the Bottoms. Johnson was born in Lynchburg to formerly enslaved parents just after the Civil War. He later attended Howard University Medical School, graduating in 1892, and would become the first African American licensed physician in Alexandria. In 2004, Johnson's home was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition to his work as a doctor and a pillar in the African American community, Johnson was a property owner. One of those properties he owned was 812 Duke St., which

he sold to Annie Bailey Rose in 1941 following the death of her husband, William Henry.

Annie B. Rose wore many hats professionally, from teacher to nursing assistant, but throughout most of her 96 years, Rose was a tireless community activist. In addition to her work with aging residents, she was the founder of the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage and instrumental in ensuring the history of Freedom House, located at 1315 Duke St., would not be forgotten. Her father, Lewis Henry Bailey, was one of many thousands sold to the Deep South when the building was the center of the domestic slave trade in the U.S.

Directly across from 814 lived John Strange and his children. In the 1930 census, his two youngest children, sons Clarence and Robert, were 8 and 4 years old, respectively. By the end of the decade, they would fearlessly challenge Jim Crow laws in Alexandria. In 1939, local attorney Samuel Tucker specifically chose respected young men who were mature enough to handle backlash to protest his hometown's segregated library policies.

On Aug. 21, 1939, Clarence



PHOTO/THE OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

The Annie B. Rose House at 812 Duke St.

Strange, William Evans, Edward Gaddis, Morris Murray and Otto Tucker entered the library at 717 Queen St., requesting library cards. When they were refused, they each grabbed books from the shelves and sat down to read in protest. The younger Strange's job was to act as a lookout, alerting Samuel Tucker when the police were en route. This pre-Civil Rights era act of civil disobedience employed the same sit-in strategy which would help to

topple segregation across the South years later.

These three stories speak to the rich history of Alexandria and its strength of community. Examples were set and ideas circulated among neighbors – and these Alexandrians from the 800 block of Duke Street helped to shape the city we have today.

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

Weekly Poll

Last Week

What do you think about Mayor Justin Wilson's proposal to rename three "offensive" streets per year?

61% It's too disruptive to rename streets.

26% I think it's a great idea.

10% I'm in favor of renaming streets but there was a process already in place.

4% I'm not sure.

This Week

Take the poll at alextimes.com

With residential real estate assessments up by more than 5% this year, should City Council lower the tax rate to temper the hit to taxpayers?

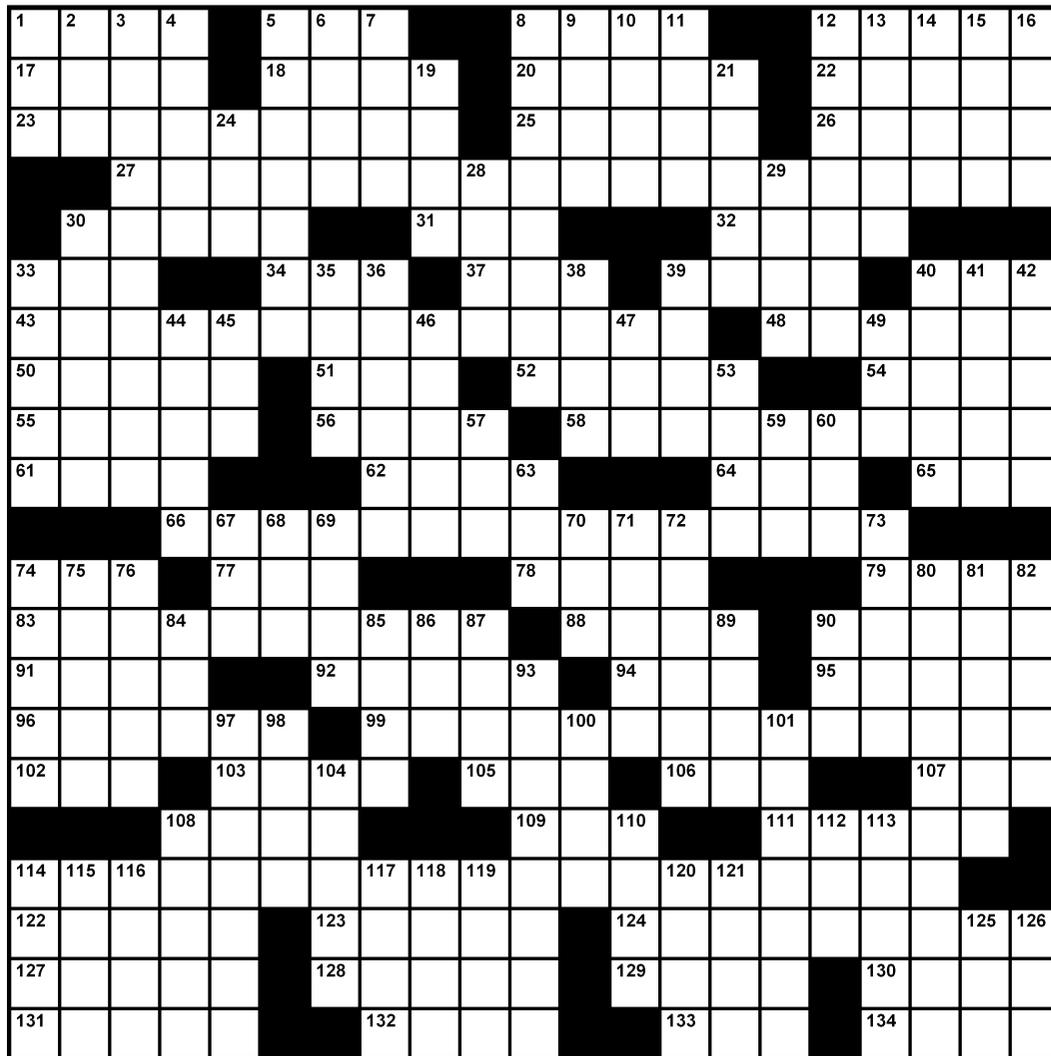
A) Yes.

B) No.

C) I'm not sure.

D) My house appreciation didn't keep up with inflation!

Weekly Words



DOCTOR'S ORDERS by Amie Walker, edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS

- 1 Races, as an engine
- 5 Whiz
- 8 Lids
- 12 "Epic" inspiration for the poet H.D.'s "Helen"
- 17 "Here's an ____ ..."
- 18 Minus' opposite
- 20 French farewell
- 22 Punch bowl scoop
- 23 Apt bit of feedback for a web developer?
- 25 Religious ceremonies
- 26 Bouncy tunes
- 27 *Cardiologist's song request? (Demi Lovato, 2011)
- 30 Like Galileo, by birth
- 31 Fawn's mom
- 32 Singer Redding
- 33 Boot tip
- 34 Banned pesticide
- 37 Ran into
- 39 Turnip or beet
- 40 "Well, well, well!"
- 43 *E.R. physician's song request? (The Fray, 2005)
- 48 *With 96-Across, OB-GYN's song request? (The Eagles, 1976)
- 50 Goof
- 51 ____ Aviv
- 52 Dia de los Muertos head
- 54 "Well, duh!"

- 55 Alternative to heels
- 56 Skating leap
- 58 *Ophthalmologist's song request? (The Weeknd, 2020)
- 61 Variety
- 62 Biblical name seen backward in "walks on eggshells"
- 64 Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law's Southwestern sch.
- 65 "C'____ la vie!"
- 66 Health care guideline, or each starred clue's answer?
- 74 Legal org.
- 77 Prepare to toss a beanbag
- 78 Mil. alliance based in Brussels
- 79 Answer an invitation
- 83 *Endocrinologist's song request? (The Archies, 1969)
- 88 Low, in Spanish
- 90 Math comparison
- 91 Run like the wind
- 92 Future butterflies
- 94 Comedian Delaney
- 95 Terminates at work
- 96 See 48-Across
- 99 *Surgeon's song request? (Bryan Adams, 1983)
- 102 108-Across eggs
- 103 Bird of prey
- 105 Greek H
- 106 UFO crew
- 107 Some boxing victories, briefly
- 108 Salmon or sturgeon
- 109 ____ Grande

- 111 More crafty
- 114 *Anesthesiologist's song request? (LL Cool J, 1990)
- 122 Take by force
- 123 Name that anagrams to "cigar"
- 124 Like a style that's back in style
- 127 Because
- 128 Actress Bailey who will star in 2023's "The Little Mermaid"
- 129 Soothing plant
- 130 Pasta nutrient, for short
- 131 Enthusiastic
- 132 "It's ____ real"
- 133 Directed
- 134 Not very much

DOWN

- 1 Tease
- 2 Academic URL ender
- 3 Crunchy lunch option with a tortilla
- 4 Indian bridal garments
- 5 Tacks on
- 6 Be overly sweet
- 7 100 cents, in Italy
- 8 North Carolina athletes
- 9 "Garfield" dog
- 10 Bread served with hummus
- 11 Oracle
- 12 "Fine, tell me more"
- 13 Animals' retreats
- 14 Inactive
- 15 Opposite of 88-Across
- 16 Office fixture

DEATH NOTICES

CONSTANCE CROWLEY (95), formerly of Alexandria, Feb. 3, 2023

MARGARET DAWSON (93), formerly of Alexandria, Feb. 7, 2023

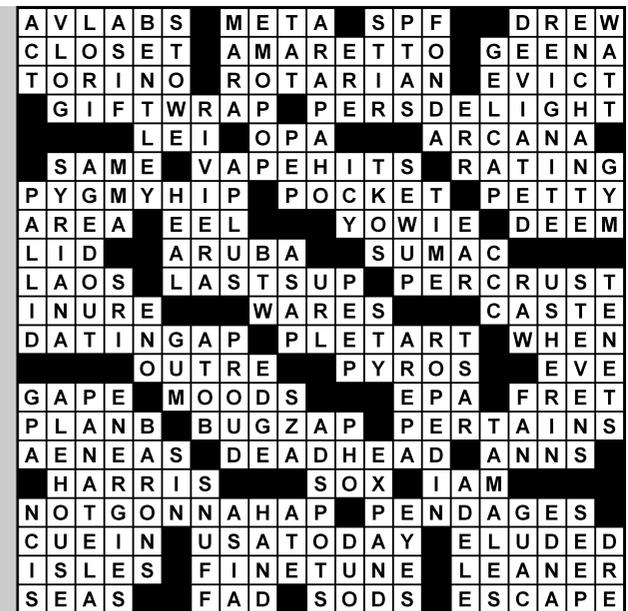
MARGARET DOCKERY (86), of Alexandria, Feb. 3, 2023

WILLIAM MARTIN (62), formerly of Alexandria, Feb. 6, 2023

OTHA PHILLIPS (92), of Alexandria, Jan. 31, 2023

PATRICIA WRIGHT (87), formerly of Alexandria, Feb. 9, 2023

Solutions from last week



- 19 Starter earring
- 21 "So do we!"
- 24 Actress Noblezada or Mendes
- 28 Kind of tomato
- 29 Very much
- 30 Not well
- 33 Burglary
- 35 Unlimited ____ plan
- 36 ABC VIP, e.g.
- 38 Polynesian carving
- 39 Depend (on)
- 40 Common phone signoff
- 41 Buzzy spots?
- 42 Praiseful poet
- 44 Pacific Northwest carving
- 45 Choice words?
- 46 Justice Kagan
- 47 Good times
- 49 Hardship
- 53 Word after "course" or "oversize"
- 57 "Hahaha"
- 59 L.A.'s country
- 60 Play about robots
- 63 Nine-digit ID
- 67 Corn serving
- 68 Prefix for "pleasure"
- 69 "My turn!"
- 70 Indent key
- 71 Flashback game console maker
- 72 "For real!"
- 73 Bathtub part
- 74 Up and about

- 75 Good, in Mexico
- 76 Striped gem
- 80 "Forget what I just said!"
- 81 Compete to win
- 82 Stances at a photo shoot
- 84 Not interested in finding love, briefly
- 85 Apt rhyme of "muck"
- 86 "The Simpsons" storekeeper
- 87 Evaluate
- 89 Aid and ____
- 90 '60s atty. general
- 93 Birth control pill hormone
- 97 Talk down?
- 98 Perseverance rover's org.
- 100 Secular
- 101 Convinced (of)
- 104 Every ____ way
- 108 Absurd comedy
- 110 Gumbo vegetable
- 112 British lav
- 113 Desert shrub
- 114 Greek poet's inspiration
- 115 Where Vietnam is
- 116 Kind of bean in Vietnamese cuisine
- 117 Blah in color
- 118 Leafy green
- 119 "Death on the ____" (Christie novel)
- 120 Shout
- 121 Great Plains tribe
- 125 Nest egg initials
- 126 Compound in weed, for short

Classifieds

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PART 2: POSTING AND PUBLISHING
PUBLISHING NOTICE

Please publish the following item in the **legal notice section** of your newspaper. Please refer to the instructions provided on page 16.

Full name(s) of owner(s): RUI Management, LLC
If general partnership, enter partners' names or name of partnership. If LP, LLP, LLC or corporation, enter name as recorded with the State Corporation Commission. If association or tax-exempt private club, enter name. Only if a sole proprietor, enter first, middle and last name.

Trading as: Elancé at Alexandria
(trade name)

5100 Fillmore Ave.
(Location where business will trade)

Alexandria
(city/town)

VA, 22311-5069
(county) (state) (zip + 4)

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a wine and beer on and off premises and mixed beverage license
(type[s] of license[s] applied for) to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

William Erain, Jr., Chief Executive Officer
(name and title of owner/partner/officer authorizing advertisement)

Date notice posted at establishment: February 15, 2023

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

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received: _____ Referred to: _____ Application fee: _____
Postmarked date: _____ Date referred: _____ License fee: _____
Receipt no.: _____ Region: _____ CBC fee: _____
License no.: _____ Territory no.: _____ Total: _____

(Rev. 08/2022) This is an official state document and all information contained or submitted therein is public information. Refer to Privacy Statement on the bottom of page two regarding personal/tax information. **Part 2: Retail License Application | 23**

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LEGAL NOTICE



**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING**
Monday, March 13, 2023 - 7:00 PM
Sister Cities Conference Room,
City Hall
301 King Street, Room 1101
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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

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

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Lisa Chase at alicia.chase@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-3831, Virginia Relay 711.

BZA #2023-00003
320 South Fairfax Street
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Exception to construct an addition in the required side yard; zoned: RM/Residential Townhouse.
Applicant:
Sam & Ashley Chamberlain

Other Business
Election of Board Officers for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary

LEGAL NOTICE



**Board of Architectural Review
LEGAL NOTICE OF
A PUBLIC HEARING**

A Public Hearing will be held by the Board of Architectural Review on Thursday, March 2, 2023 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Sister Cities Conference Room, room 1101, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 on the following applications:

Classifieds

BAR#2023-00011 OHAD
Request for alterations and
addition at 631 N Columbus Street
Applicant: Sherri Crane

BAR#2023-00012 OHAD
Request for partial demolition/
encapsulation at 631
N Columbus Street
Applicant: Sherri Crane

BAR #2023-00022 OHAD
Request for alterations and addition
at 210 Franklin Street
Applicant:
Marks-Woods Construction

BAR #2023-00043 OHAD
Request for partial demolition/
encapsulation at 210 Franklin Street
Applicant: Marks-Woods
Construction

BAR #2023-00034 OHAD
Request for signage at 1204 S
Washington Street
Applicant: Hunting Point
Apartments, LLC

BAR #2023-00040 OHAD
Request for alterations and addition
at 720 S Alfred Street
Applicant:
Mary Ritley-White Thomas J

BAR #2023-00041 OHAD
Request for partial demolition/
encapsulation at 720 S Alfred Street
Applicant:
Mary Ritley-White Thomas J

BAR #2023-00052 100YOB
Request for alterations and addition
at 114 N Payne Street
Applicant: Larry and Sue Barkell

BAR #2023-00069 100YOB
Request for partial demolition/
encapsulation at 114 N Payne Street
Applicant: Larry and Sue Barkell

BAR #2023-00053 OHAD
Request for alterations at
1101 King Street
Applicant:
City House Old Town, LLC

BAR #2023-00068 OHAD
Request for partial demolition/
encapsulation at 1101 King Street
Applicant:
City House Old Town, LLC

Legend
OHAD – Old and Historic

Alexandria District
PG – Parker-Gray Historic District
100YOB – 100-Year-Old Buildings

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

LEGAL NOTICE



ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION & CITY COUNCIL MARCH 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, MARCH 7, 2023
7:00 PM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL
SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023

9:30 AM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

The March 7, 2023 Alexandria
Planning Commission Public
Hearing and the March 18, 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_
Ksl9EYYP4cRy-IL842Qby1zQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ksl9EYYP4cRy-IL842Qby1zQ)

Zoom Audio Conference:
Dial in: 301-715-8592
Webinar ID: 933 9205 8044
Password: 157659

City Council
(Public Hearing Webinar):
Registration Link:
[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/
WN_AfFepP4cRy-IL842Qby1zQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AfFepP4cRy-IL842Qby1zQ)

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Dial in: 301-715-8592
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Password: 922329

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

Public comment will be received

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

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

Discussion Item: Potomac River
Generating Station - Coordinated
Sustainability Strategy
Staff: City of Alexandria,
Department of Planning & Zoning

Zoning Text Amendment
#2022-00012
(A) Initiation of a Text Amendment
and (B) Public Hearing and
consideration of a Text Amendment
to the Zoning Ordinance to amend
Article XI, Section 11-700 related
to Transportation Management
Special Use Permits, to adopt
a policy for Transportation
Management Plans (TMPs) and
to allow changes to existing TMPs
administratively.
Staff: City of Alexandria,
Department of Transportation &
Environmental Services

Special Use Permit #2022-00106
3603, 3605, 3607, 3609 and 3701
Mount Vernon Avenue -
The Birchmere
Public Hearing and consideration
of a request for a Special Use Permit
to waive the sign requirements of
Article IX of the Zoning Ordinance;
zoned: CDD #6, Coordinated
Development District #6.
Applicant: Just a Honky Tonk,
LC, represented by M. Catharine
Puskar, attorney

Special Use Permit #2022-00109
625 Burnside Place
Public Hearing and consideration

of a request for a Special Use Permit
for a recycling and materials
recovery facility, including a
review and increase in the number
of permitted vehicles per day
(amending SUP #2007-00029,
Condition #2).

Applicant: AWRP, Inc., represented
by Duncan W. Blair, attorney

Development Special Use Permit
#2022-10023
Transportation Management Plan
Special Use Permit #2022-00112
Inova West End (Landmark) -
6001 Duke Street
Public Hearing and consideration
of a request for a (A) Development
Special Use Permit with
modifications to construct an over
one million square foot hospital
campus consisting of a hospital,
cancer center, specialty care center,
Block Q of the Central Plaza,
and above and below ground
parking garages, including a
Special Use Permit for a penthouse
exceeding 15 feet in height on the
hospital building and (B) a Tier
III Transportation Management
Plan; zoned CDD #29/Coordinated
Development District #29.
Applicant: Inova Health Care
Services, represented by M.
Catharine Puskar, Attorney

Public Hearing and consideration
of a request for the Planning
Commission to adopt a resolution
to set its FY2024 meeting schedule
and establish continuation dates for
meetings.
Staff: City of Alexandria,
Department of Planning & Zoning

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