



Unboxing new public art



PHOTO/BRIANNE MCCONNELL

A young art enthusiast takes in the city's newest installation by Nina Cooke John.

'Two Boxes of Oranges and Admonia Jackson' unveiled on waterfront

BY BRIANNE MCCONNELL

Along Alexandria's waterfront, bright orange spires now rise from the ground below to greet visitors. Designed to detail parts of history and draw in visitors, "Two Boxes of Oranges and Admonia Jackson," is the latest piece in a series of public art installations at Waterfront Park.

"It's colorful; it's vibrant; it's meant to be engaging," Nina Cooke John, the artist behind the project, said.

The steel vertical pieces are designed to replicate the hull of a ship. The temporary installation, which officially opened to the public on Saturday, is designed to transport

people back to another moment in time. Ships using the waterfront would have not only carried cargo like rum, fruit and livestock, but enslaved people as part of the domestic slave trade.

"It forces you to start thinking what it would have been like at that time and if it really was a working dock ... it wouldn't have been all glitz," Cooke John said.

Standing on the outside of the display visitors will see blue painted on the steel structures, the color meant to emulate pieces poking up through the water. Walk through to the other side and visitors will be met with contrasting colors and text. Words such as "oranges," "tobacco" and

SEE **INSTALLATION**

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Remembering Alexandria's modern city manager.

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Gun violence in Alexandria doubles

Annual APD report reveals need for more officers

BY AMY WILL

Alexandria Police Department's 2022 review, presented at Tuesday night's legislative City Council meeting, revealed that gun violence cases doubled in the city year-over-year, from 76 reported cases to 152, even as violent crime as a whole fell by 12.2%.

The review included a detailed break-down of the department's goals, the city's

crime statistics and gun violence and what the future holds for APD post-pandemic.

In the opening of the presentation, Police Chief Don Hayes acknowledged the pivot his officers made during those uncertain years when the world shut down.

"We have one of the greatest police departments in this area. They came out and they are still doing so today," Hayes said. He went on to read the department's mission which

SEE **CRIME**

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CRIME TYPE	2019	2020	2021	2022	TRENDLINE
HOMICIDE	2	3	2	6	
RAPE	20	12	9	8	
ROBBERY	82	87	83	108	
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	196	208	241	172	
BURGLARY	117	126	186	159	
LARCENY	2,093	2,473	2,421	2,593	
AUTO THEFT	233	359	268	315	
TOTAL	2,743	3,268	3,210	3,361	

• Annual report data based on report date, not occurred date, in line with NIBRS reporting requirements.

DARA/ALEXANDRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT/CHART/JESSICA KIM

Part I crime statistics.



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Cleaning Hack: Keep Your Drains Clean and Smelling Fresh

"Use vinegar and baking soda to clean your drains: Pour a cup of baking soda into the drain, then a cup of vinegar. Let it fizz for a few minutes, then rinse with hot water. This will help remove buildup and keep your drains smelling fresh."

— The Goodhart Group

Cleaning Hack: Dust Lampshades with a Lint Roller

"A seemingly simple, but time-saving cleaning hack we love to share is our trick for dusting lampshades... use a lint roller! This is a great and gentle way to clean lampshades with less potential to damage them. Would love to hear if you give it a try!"

— The Rivkin Group

Pro Tip: Disinfect Your Washing Machine

"Disinfect your washing machine to help it reach its maximum cleaning potential. First run the machine with hot water, then add white vinegar and baking soda, and let them sit for about an hour. Finally, restart the cycle, let the water drain, and wipe it clean."

— Homes of Alexandria Team

Pro Tip: Clean Your Windows

"There's nothing quite like the joy of having your windows washed after "The Pollening" is over. As soon as the window cleaning crew wipes away that yellow film, your world is suddenly transformed. It's a simple pleasure, but one that brings a sense of renewal and freshness to your home. Need a recommendation for a service? I would be happy to share, reach out today!"

— Pia Taylor



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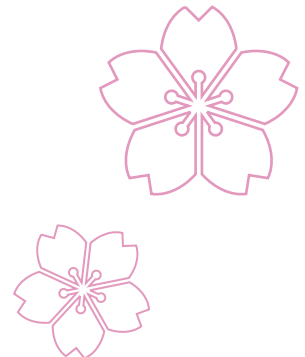
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Pia Taylor
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WEEKLY BRIEFING

APD investigates shooting incident

On March 18 at approximately 10:26 p.m., the Alexandria Police Department responded to a call for shots fired in the 400 block of North Armistead Street according to a news release. A 32-year-old

male victim was found with an apparent gunshot wound to the upper body. The victim was transported to a hospital with serious injuries. This is an active investigation and any witnesses with informa-

tion regarding this incident should contact Detective Edmund Dougherty by phone at 703-746-6697 or by email at Edmund.Dougherty@alexandriava.gov.

-lgolden@alextimes.com

THEY ARE ALL HONORED HERE



COURTESY PHOTO

ACHS students won the Virginia Education Association's Barbara Johns Youth Award for Human Relations and Civil Rights.

ACHS students honored with award

Students from Alexandria City High School won the Virginia Education Association's Barbara Johns Youth Award for Human Relations and Civil Rights for their documentary

film "They Are All Honored Here." This award was presented to the Black Student Union, Theater Department and Television and Media Production students for promoting

positive intergroup relations and appreciation of diversity. The film is available for viewing by visiting youtube.com/watch?v=MA_7q0jqKHs

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COURTESY PHOTO

Beth Hamed, Anne Fafara, Jim Garland (co-owner), Patty Owens, Carrie Garland (co-owner), and Carolyn Johnson attend the Nepenthe Gallery's anniversary party.

Nepenthe Gallery celebrates anniversary

On March 16, guests gathered for champagne and cake to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the opening of the Nepenthe Gallery. Original artworks by Brazilian artist

Romero Britto were on display and selections by local, regional, national and international artists were also available for purchase. The gallery and custom framing establish-

ment is now adding art consultation to their services and art lovers are invited every Thursday at 6 p.m. to the gallery for wine and cheese.

-lgolden@alextimes.com

by Friedrich Schiller, translated by Peter Oswald
produced by Hilary Adams and Margaret Chapman
directed by Kathleen Barth

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WEEKLY BRIEFING

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A Veteran for Peace aboard the Golden Rule.

Arrival of the Golden Rule

In 1958, a crew of anti-nuclear weapons activists set sail aboard a 34-foot wooden two-masted sailboat named the Golden Rule and protested nuclear weapons testing in the Marshall Islands. Nonprofit or-

ganization Veterans for Peace restored and are currently sailing on a 15-month 11,000-mile voyage along the American coastline to continue their protest. There will be events and opportunities to come aboard

Golden Rule, meet the crew and learn more about their mission throughout the weeks ahead. More information can be found at vfpgoldenruleproject.org.

-lgolden@alextimes.com



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WEEKLY BRIEFING



COURTESY PHOTO

Friends of Dyke Marsh and the National Park Service will host their 35th annual Potomac River cleanup.

Upcoming Potomac River cleanup

On April 15, all are welcome to join the Friends of Dyke Marsh and the National Park Service from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. for the 35th annual Potomac River cleanup in partnership with the Alice Ferguson Foundation. A trash cleanup will take place along the Potomac River

shoreline in Dyke Marsh, Belle Haven Park and the Haul Road Trail.

Please join at the registration table in Belle Haven Park near the south parking lot or at the entrance to the Haul Road Trail. Gloves, tools, trash bags and hand sanitizer will be provided.

Participants are encouraged to wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes, long pants and sleeves, gloves and sun protection. Please bring water to drink. Participants will be notified in advance if these events will be canceled due to inclement weather.

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Women's Leadership Forum

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce hosted the 10th annual Women's Leadership Forum on March 24. More than two hundred attendees enjoyed

a networking breakfast and listened to panel discussions on a variety of issues from leaders in their fields.

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PHOTO/MARK EATON

Senior Services of Alexandria hosts annual gala

On March 25, SSA celebrated their 55th anniversary during their annual silent auction and gala. Donita Greene and retired sheriff Dana Lawhorne were this year's honorees. The Reverend Dr. George Pera and former Mayor of Alexandria

Kerry Donley posthumously received the Lifetime of Service awards. Nonprofit SSA's mission is "to foster independence and self-sufficiency, enabling seniors within the City of Alexandria to age with dignity."

-lgolden@alextimes.com

Alexandria Celebrates Women awards

Through April 15, nominations are being accepted for the ACW Celebrates Women awards. The nonprofit ACW recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of Alexandria's women of the past, present and future and acknowledges the history of city's heroines while celebrating the empowerment of the

modern woman. Nominations for women ages 14 to 21 who have made a difference in our community are welcome. For a nomination form, please visit: ACW-2023-Celebrate-Women-Awards-Nomination-Form-MB-Edits.docx (live.com). The ceremony will be held on May 31..

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Seminar on Historic Easements

On April 19, the Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission and co-sponsored by the Old Town Civic Association and the Historic Alexandria Foundation will host a free seminar to learn about how to preserve the ar-

chitectural heritage of your home and our historic community while taking advantage of federal, state and local tax incentives. For more information, visit apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=51789

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Celebrate Easter at Christ Church

Palm Sunday | April 2

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday | April 9

7:30 a.m., in the churchyard
9:00 a.m., with Easter egg hunt
11:15 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

For a complete list of Holy Week offerings, visit bit.ly/CCAlexEaster

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INSTALLATION FROM | 1

“mahogany” can be seen throughout the inside of the installation.

Names and identifying information such as “Jane Taylor, female, 39 years” are also included. Cooke John based the text on information from her research on manifests from the ships of that period which detailed the cargo on board. Based in New Jersey, Cooke John received the inspiration for the display from the discoveries over the past few years at the Alexandria waterfront.

In 2015, a hull was discovered during the development of the Hotel Indigo. In 2018, additional hulls were discovered at the site of Robinson Landing.

“The images of those ships, they were partially uncovered. You could see the hull, the wooden members partially exposed. This idea of an archeological dig shows us bits and pieces of the past. Where more



PHOTO/BRIANNE MCCONNELL

Painted words detail manifests from old ships.

is exposed the more you work on the site,’ Cooke John said.

According to the artist, this piece is meant to be multilayered, just like the layers re-

vealed during an archeological excavation. Like archeologists conducting a dig, Cooke John hopes the more that people interact with the installation, the

more they will uncover.

“The hope is that people will be interested in history and ask more questions. And then go and look it up,” Cooke

John said.

This public art display is the fifth in the city’s installation series commissioned by Alexandria’s Public Art Program.

“Each of the pieces has been so different, but inspired by Alexandria just in different ways,” Diane Ruggiero, deputy director of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities, said.

The artists, including Cooke John, were selected for these site-specific pieces by a community task force with approval from the Alexandria Commission for the Arts.

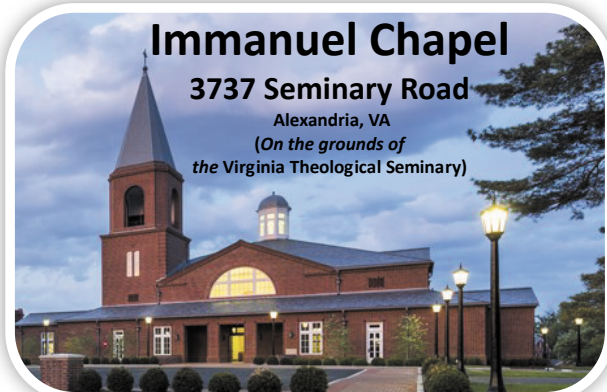
Cooke John began to dig deeply into the history of Alexandria a year ago, when she toured neighborhoods, walked the waterfront and visited Freedom House.

“She’s very thoughtful in her approach. She is heavily based in research. She does a lot of research. And you can

SEE **INSTALLATION** | 10

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3606 Seminary Road
- 10:30 a.m. Bagpiper-led Procession with Palms to Immanuel Chapel VTS Post Office
- 10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist Rite II with Choir featuring MOZART’S “LACRIMOSA” Immanuel Chapel

MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 6 “COMMEMORATION OF THE LAST SUPPER”

- 10:30 a.m. Weekly Bible Study: THE GOSPEL OF MARK Online via Zoom
- 6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II with Choir and String Sextet featuring SAMUEL BARBER’S “THE ADAGIO FOR STRINGS” Foot Washing, and Stripping of the Altar Immanuel Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 7 “THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST: THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE”

- 12 Noon Stations of the Cross Immanuel Chapel
- 6:30 p.m. The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday featuring PUCCHINI’S “REQUIEM” and works from the Renaissance through modern times (Crécquillon, Gawthrop, Pärt, and Chilcott, among others) Immanuel Chapel

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9 “CELEBRATING CHRIST’S DEFEAT OF DEATH”

Extra Seating Provided in Immanuel Chapel

- 8:00 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist Rite I Zabriskie Chapel
3606 Seminary Road
- 9:15 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II with Brass, Choir, and Timpani featuring GAWTHORP’S “ON THE THIRD DAY” and works by Noyona Immanuel Chapel
- 10:30 a.m. Reception and Children’s Easter Egg Hunt, the Grove at VTS Chapel grounds
- 11:15 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist Rite II with Brass, Choir, and Timpani featuring GAWTHORP’S “ON THE THIRD DAY” and works by Noyona Immanuel Chapel
- 12:30 p.m. Reception in the Parlor

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INSTALLATION FROM | 8
see that research reflected in her projects,” Ruggiero said.

Born and raised in Jamaica before immigrating to the United States for college, Cooke John earned a bachelor’s degree in architecture

from Cornell University. She received a master’s in advanced architectural design from Columbia University.

Cooke John began her professional career designing houses and later worked on such cultural institutional projects as the New York Bo-

tanical Gardens. According to the artist, her educational and professional background has influenced how she understands physical engagement in a space.

When it comes to this piece, Cooke John said there were several practical consid-

erations to consider.

“With any public art, people are going to be interacting with it, leaning on it, pulling on it, touching it, hanging from it. We had to alter some of the angles to make sure people aren’t skating on it.”

Another consideration:

the rising water and constant flooding along the site for the piece. Cooke John said she saw the flooding firsthand on the second day of the near month-long installation of her creation.

SEE **INSTALLATION** | 12

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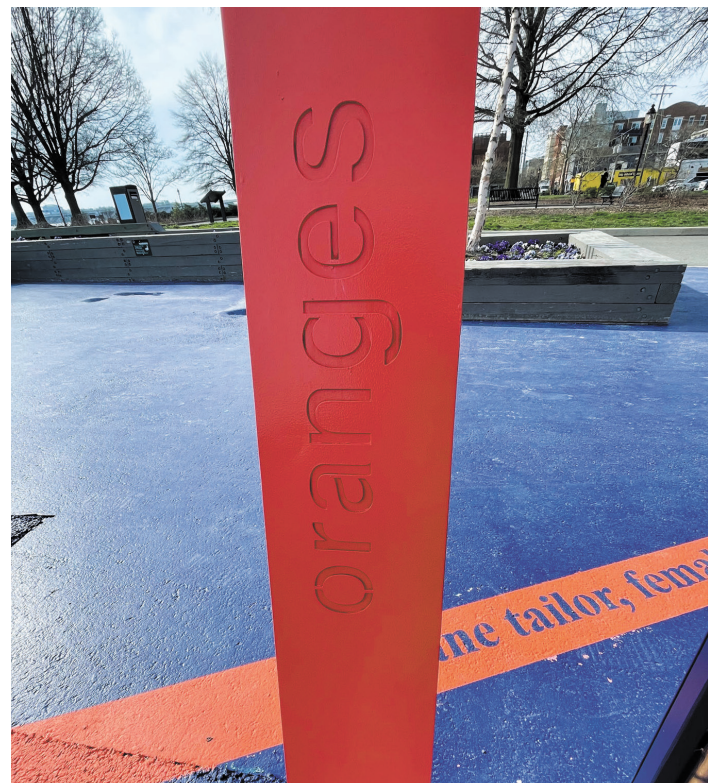
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PHOTO/BRIANNE MCCONNELL

The name and identifying information of a female slave.



PHOTO/BRIANNE MCCONNELL

Words etched into steel can be seen inside of the installation.

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- MS writers camp (rising 6th-9th)
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Week 2 ★

- Japanese Culture Camp (rising 7th grade and up)
- Music & Podcast (rising 7th grade and up)
- DND CAMP Session 1 WEEK 1 (rising 8th & up)
- HS writers camp WEEK 1 (rising 9th-12th)

Week 3 ★

- Japanese Culture Camp (rising 7th grade and up)
- Star Wars (rising 7th grade and up)
- Art of Math (must have completed Algebra 1)
- DND CAMP Session 1 WEEK 2 (rising 8th & up)
- HS writers camp WEEK 2 (rising 9th & up)

Week 4 ★

- Fusion's Kitchen (rising 6th grade and up)
- Music & Podcast (rising 7th grade and up)
- DND CAMP Session 2 WEEK 1 (rising 8th & up)

Week 5 ★

- Fusion's Kitchen (rising 6th grade and up)
- Music & Podcast (rising 7th grade and up)
- DND CAMP Session 2 WEEK 2 (rising 8th & up)

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1 Week: \$756 | 2 Weeks: \$1080 | 3 Weeks: \$1600 | 4 Weeks: \$2160



PHOTO/BRIANNE MCCONNELL

Steel vertical pieces are designed to replicate the hull of a ship.

INSTALLATION FROM | 10

“The day they were connecting the lights – they are meant to be able to be submerged once they have been connected, but they weren’t fully connected yet,” Cooke John shared.

According to Ruggiero, this was the first time in the history of the program that the area flooded during the installation process. Just like past installations, this piece will also have curated programming. In the coming weeks, the city will put out a call to local artists to commission an original work

of movement and an original work of music to be performed in the space come fall.

“Two Boxes of Oranges and Admonia Jackson” will be on display through November 2023.

The city plans to announce the artist who has been selected for the next public art display in April.

“I think the public art is doing exactly what we want it to do,” Ruggiero said. “It’s activating the site, creating conversations for people and really giving everyone something to look forward to every year.”

-bmcconnell@alextimes.com

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PHOTO/BRIANNE MCCONNELL

“Two Boxes of Oranges and Admonia Jackson” by Nina Cooke John.

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PHOTO/LAURA HATCHER

“Groundswell” by Mark Reigelman, 2021.



PHOTO/LAURA HATCHER

Wrought, Knit, Labors, Legacies by Olalekan Jeyifous, 2020.

Commissioned by Alexandria’s Public Art Program, “Site See: New Views in Old Town” is an annual series of temporary public art that brings residents and visitors to Waterfront Park. Past installations are displayed here.



PHOTO/MERIDITH MCKINLEY

“I Love You” by Roberto Behar and Rosario Marquardt of R&R Studios, 2022.

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PHOTO/ALAN TANSEY

Mirror Mirror by SOFTlab, 2019.



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228 South Pitt Street, 22314

703-548-6089

CRIME

FROM | 1

definitively states: “to provide competent, courteous, professional and community-oriented police services.”

Other APD objectives include: strengthening public trust through community partnerships, enriching internal resources and stepping up transportation management via traffic enforcement, safety and education.

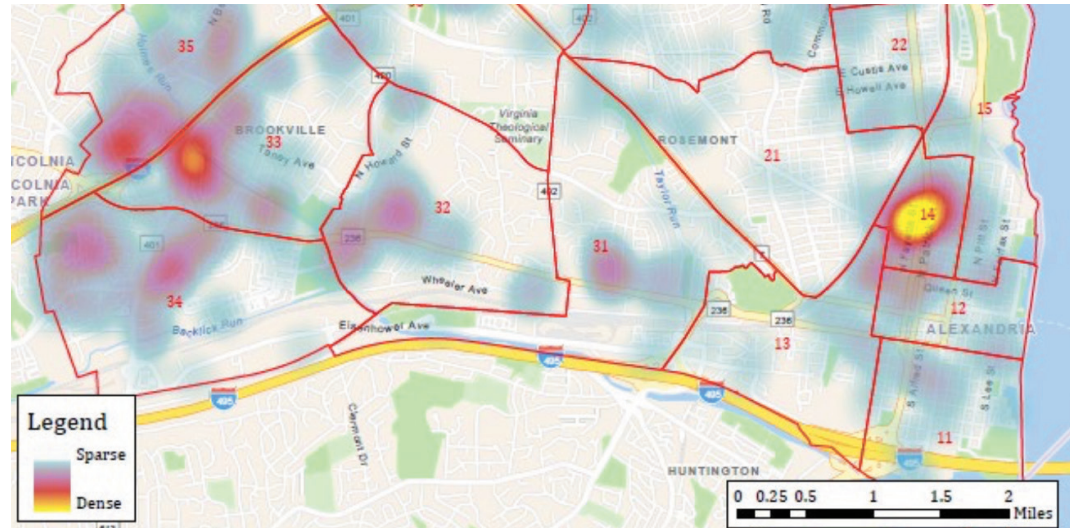
The review revealed a 12.2% decrease in violent crimes in 2022 compared to 2021 and cites a “downward trend from pre-pandemic times.” That statistic was overshadowed, however, by a 100% increase in gun violence during that same period.

A slide in the presentation breaks down calls received in the city for “shots fired” that were serviced from Jan. 1, 2018 to Feb. 27, 2023. The detailed heat map shows that the densest concentration of calls

were in the North Fayette/North Patrick part of the Parker-Gray neighborhood, though the most calls overall were diffused throughout the city’s West End. These may include calls where “no evidence of shots being fired could be found upon officers’ arrival on the scene.”

Just days ago, officers were dispatched to the North Fayette/North Patrick street area at approximately 7 p.m. for reported gunfire. No injuries were found in that instance. Representatives for the APD explained to City Councilors that those calls are sometimes the link needed to solve a more serious crime and emphasized that they are not taken lightly.

When asked if the gun violence unit contained enough officers to handle such a growing problem, Captain Chris Wemple responded, “they could always use more...but it’s enough to do what we need to do.”



PHOTO/ALEXANDRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for shots fired heat map.

Moving forward, programs such as Operation Cease Fire and a proposed gunshot detection system will help departments be more responsive in the community, according to the review.

Another critical tool for ensuring safety on the streets is the much-anticipated implementation of body worn cam-

eras. According to the review, the roll-out is expected to happen in April and could take close to 10 months to complete. Thirty cameras are expected to be distributed each month.

“It is a very important milestone for us,” North said. “And I thank you for your support. Means a lot to the officers.”

North explained that, upon

completion of an eight-hour training program, APD officers will receive body-worn equipment and immediately transition to live recordings. This process aims to avoid any delay from the time of instruction to the actual implementation of the cameras.

SEE CRIME

| 16

HOLY WEEK SERVICES IN OLD TOWN WITH THE CHURCH OF SOUTH WASHINGTON



HOLY THURSDAY COMMUNION SERVICE

Thursday, April 6 ▪ 7:30 p.m.
at Beulah Baptist Church
320 S. Washington Street



GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

Friday, April 7 ▪ 7:30 p.m.
at Old Town Community Church
212 S. Washington Street



EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

Sunday, April 9 ▪ 6:30 a.m.
at Founders Park
321 N. Union Street

The Church of South Washington is four churches, two Baptists and two Methodists, two historically Black and two historically White, that gather together to bridge our historic divide by coming together to fellowship, worship, and serve the City of Alexandria.



CRIME TYPE	2019	2020	2021	2022	TRENDLINE
DESTRUCTION/VANDALISM	790	1,015	1,168	1,320	
PROSTITUTION	3	3	0	0	
DRUG/NARCOTIC OFFENSES*	563	351	193	295	
GAMBLING	1	0	0	0	
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	78	41	48	52	
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	242	146	219	241	
DRUNKENNESS	371	269	293	344	
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	196	90	79	78	
TOTAL	2,244	1,915	2,000	2,330	

*Possession of small amounts of marijuana (up to one ounce) was decriminalized on July 1, 2020, and now carries a civil fine of up to \$25.

DARA/ALEXANDRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT/CHART/JESSICA KIM

Part II crime statistics.

CRIME

FROM | 15

Part of the meeting focused on the chronic problem of understaffing. It was noted by both City Councilors and Hayes that community outreach programs, neighborhood cookouts and walks have helped in the communication between residents and officers. According to Hayes, having a robust patrol unit is the key to significant change in safety.

The review states that the APD is “operating at minimal sworn staffing levels,” indicating the department is stretched thin. Regarding officer positions, Hayes stated, “we are still down 70 (officers) available to work the streets out of 322.”

While APD is allowed to enroll and train officers at the police academy, those candidates cannot respond to calls alone. The review noted that the APD is actively recruiting new officers. On March 28, the department posted on their official Twitter account that an upcoming written test date, the first step in becoming an officer, has been scheduled for April 1.

Following the written exam, the hiring process consists of a background interview and questionnaire, a poly-

graph, medical and psychological exam, a job interview with the chief and to attend the academy and “start your new career.”

The Alexandria Co-Response Program is a specialized unit of three teams, which are comprised of a specially trained officer and a licensed behavioral health clinician on duty seven days a week to help those experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Part of the increase in the demand for new officers could be related to the spike in mental health calls.

“Mental health needs and police response has increased over the COVID-19 pandemic. Each mental health call averages a thirty-five hour response commitment consisting of several calls and shifts. ACORP improves response and reduces hospitalizations with direct outreach,” according to the review.

The APD review shared that the department answered a total of 2,387 behavioral health calls between October 2021 and September 2022. Out of those calls, ACORP responded to 354. Only 2% of 911 calls ACORP responded to resulted in 20 arrests.

“That’s pretty impressive,”

Captain Courtney Ballantine, representing the Community Relations Division, said. “And we’re not only diverting from jail, but, from hospitals, too.”

Still, a reported 3,361 calls in 2022 were related to violent crimes, compared to 2,743 in 2019. Crimes in that category include homicides, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, as well as property crimes like burglary and auto theft.

On the same day these statistics were presented, APD responded to an armed robbery, a two-vehicle crash and reports of “shots fired.” These incidents all occurred within 12 hours of each other.

Crime Analyst Supervisor Amanda Caligiuri attributed a rise in some categories to the pandemic and indicated it is more than just a city-wide problem.

“In speaking with other agencies, they are also seeing these increases,” Caligiuri said.

Her thorough break-down

of all reported crimes came in two parts: Part I listing those violent offenses and Part II falling under the category of “nuisance” or crimes that “disturb the peace.”

According to the crime statistics laid out in the review, there were two homicides reported in 2019, compared to six in 2022. Robberies also increased. There were 108 reported cases in 2022 up from 82 in 2019.

Larcenies, however, increased by 500 cases in just four years. Caligiuri speculated some of those thefts may have been packages swiped from doorsteps, as more people turned to online shopping.

When asked about the number of arrests made in the Part I crimes, Hayes could not give an exact number, but shared that, “all homicides have been closed except for one.”

Hayes addressed the time it takes from when a call is received to when an officer ar-

rives on the scene.

“I know for a fact they are responding within an acceptable time,” Hayes said, though he conceded that a fully staffed APD would respond faster.

Branching off from the staffing issue, Mayor Justin Wilson and other City Councilors expressed concern that a number of officers who graduate from the academy never go to work for APD, indicating that some may be enticed to join other jurisdictions.

“When officers go to the academy, they sign an agreement to come back for two years,” Hayes said.

Hayes added that collective bargaining agreements – like that recently approved for APD – are helpful ways to recruit and keep talented officers in the city. An upcoming budget meeting will address the specific monetary needs and funding for the department and its programs.

-awill@alextimes.com

Obituary

Susan Marguerite Rafferty

Susan Marguerite Rafferty, 76, of Alexandria, Virginia, passed away on Feb. 18, 2023, in her home.

Susan was born on May 18, 1946, in New York, and grew up in The Bronx and New Jersey. She earned her bachelor’s degree in political science from Trinity Washington University, and her master’s degree in education from Monmouth College.

In 1974, Susan settled in Alexandria, and devoted her life to teaching social studies until her retirement in 2004. Susan was involved in multiple teaching organizations, including the Virginia Education Association Board of Directors, the Arlington Education Association and the National Education Association.

Susan loved traveling, crocheting and spending time with family and friends. For many years, Susan also worked for the Virginia House of Delegates as one of the tireless citizens that made the legislature function, serving Delegates James Almand and Al Eisenberg, respectively.

Susan was predeceased by her parents, Dorothy and Michael Rafferty, and her sisters, Gail Csipkay, Margaret Sloane and Patricia Rafferty as well as her beloved dog,



Daisy. She is survived by her sister, Joan Coon of Centerville, Massachusetts, and by many nieces and nephews: Delia Martin, Alexandra Scrosati-Wing, Romey Rego, Steve Hurd, Milt Coon, Brendan Coon and Robert McKeon.

Arrangements are entrusted to The John E. Day Funeral Home in Red Bank, New Jersey. A private celebration will be held by Susan’s family and friends at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Trinity Washington University.

Times Living

Bishop Ireton brings 'The Music Man' to town

BY KAT PASCUAL

The sound of lies can make such sweet music, or maybe that's just the sound of the trombones in River City. Written by Meredith Willson and Franklin Lacey, "The Music Man" made its debut on Broadway in 1957 and was soon adapted for film in 1962. The story centers on con man Harold Hill as he travels to the dull Iowan town of River City to sell the instruments and uniforms needed to form a children's marching band. Although his scheme usually ends in breaking his promise to direct the band by skipping town, River City offers Harold a challenge: Marian, a beautiful, whip-smart librarian and music teacher who can see right through his charade.

Capturing the essence of a beloved musical like "The Music Man" is no easy task, but the cast and crew of Bishop Ireton met the challenge with magnetism and engagement. Each actor filled out the world of River City and built excitement through dance, sweeping harmonies and radiating enthusiasm.

Leading the march was Aidan Furey as Professor Harold Hill. Furey brought a charm to Hill that could convince someone to buy air. Not only did Furey lead the show with an entrancing charisma, but the actor also showcased crisp pronunciation of the show's racing patter songs with a voice reminiscent of a fast-talking auctioneer. Furey illustrated Hill's most prom-



PHOTO/EURONA EARL TILLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

Students from Bishop Ireton during their performance of 'The Music Man.'

inent growth in the dynamic with love interest Marian Paroo (Elina Viana).

Whether engaged in interactions of loathing or infatuation, Furey and Viana had palpable electricity between them that carried the heart of the show. Viana's effortless operatic vocals displayed the actress's capability to hit high notes with an ethereal grace beyond the high school level. Masterfully balancing Marian's standoffish tendencies and her budding love for Hill, Viana's capability to tell a story through song radiated on stage in numbers such as "Goodnight My Someone."

In addition to the two lov-

ers, the other citizens of River City filled out the production with both jests and radiant vocals. Isabelle Phillips' performance as the mayor's wife, Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn, led to laughter no matter what the scene. Phillips found flawless comedic timing and jokes in her larger-than-life character through actions as simple as hugging her daughter. The Quartet (Aidan McNerney, Nick El Choueiry, Nick Olson and Grant McNamee), a barbershop-style group made up of the city's school board members, consistently delivered crisp show-stealing harmonies that underscored many scenes.

Completing the town were

the show's beautiful technical aspects. With excruciating attention to detail, the multi-use yet minimal set pieces designed by Brendan Carreon, Eve Wisneski, Joseph Murray and Charlotte Rayder transported audiences into the town. Three or four triangular set pieces remained on-stage for the show with each side representing a location central to the story. Small elements added to the immersion of each set such as some books peering out more than others in Marian's library or dates in which the high school teams won championships in the city's school gymnasium.

Costumes designed by Mi-

chelle Dorman (Claire Gibbons, Madison Bridges and Eleanor Schumtz) were faced with a certain degree of difficulty. However, they conquered their challenge with color-coordinated outfits for dance partners, old-school Girl Scout uniforms and ensemble costumes that felt unique yet cohesive.

Through stunning vocals and energizing dance numbers, Bishop Ireton's dazzling production of "The Music Man" left audiences jauntily following in time to the sweet music of River City's marching band.

The writer is a student at Fairfax High School.



PHOTO/LIONSGATE

“John Wick: Chapter 4” released March 24th.

‘John Wick: Chapter 4’

BY RICHARD ROEPER

Let’s take a look at running times for the four “John Wick” movies:

“John Wick” – 1 hour, 41 minutes.

“John Wick: Chapter 2” – 2 hours, 2 minutes.

“John Wick: Chapter 3 –

Parabellum” – 2 hours, 11 minutes.

“John Wick: Chapter 4” – 2 hours, 49 minutes.

This is getting ridiculous. I’ve been Team Wick ever since those bleeping bleeps stole John’s custom 1969 Mustang Boss 429, beat him up and KILLED THE BEAGLE PUPPY

back in 2014, but at this rate, “John Wick XI” is going to be the longest movie in the history of cinema. Somewhere inside the utterly unnecessary, bloated running time for “John Wick: Chapter 4,” there’s a brilliant, stripped-down, 100-minute classic of a drive-in action film, where the admittedly breathtaking action sequences don’t grind on for so long that they actually become borderline tedious.

In the meantime, we give a grudging but respectful recommendation to the movie that director Chad Stahelski, writers Shay Hatten and Michael Finch, and the first-rate production team have delivered: a John Wick Spaghetti Western filled with the kind of over-the-top action sequences that will have you laughing in admiration – even if you are glancing at your smartwatch from time to time.

For reasons that don’t even matter anymore, our title character is still tagged

with the Excommunicado label by the criminal governing board known as the High Table, with the bounty on John Wick’s head continuing to climb as the body count piles up. This is one of the entertainingly loony elements in the “John Wick” franchise – this whole deal with the High Table and the Continental chain of hotels for assassins, and all the rules and regulations and constant in-fighting that goes on. There’s more drama within the High Table ranks than on a typical “Real Housewives” episode – and just a tad more violence as well.

The always interesting Bill Skarsgard is the deliciously foppish Marquis de Gramont, the villainous leader of the High Table who dresses and comports himself as if he’s stepped out of “The Favourite.” The Marquis wants John Wick dead, and the leading contenders to take him out are the low-key and casually deadly “Mr. Nobody,” aka the Tracker (Shamier Anderson), whose partner is one loyal and lethal German Shepherd, and Caine (the great mixed martial arts star Donnie Yen), whose blindness only seems to enhance his uncanny abilities to slice, dice, shoot, stab and kill.

Laurence Fishburne’s Bowery King pops in from time to time to issue proclamations as if he’s the ring announcer at an MMA spectacle. Ian McShane gets some quality screen time as Winston, who wants only to rebuild his beloved New York hotel. It’s particularly poignant and bittersweet to see the late Lance Reddick returning as Winston’s trusty concierge and friend, Charon. Also turning in fine work are Hiroyuki Sanada as Shimazu Koji, who runs the Osaka Continental and is one of John’s few remaining true friends in the world, and Rina Sawayama as Koji’s daughter, Akira, who rues the moment John Wick arrives at their hotel because she knows he brings death with him everywhere he goes.

Of course, even with all these fine actors portraying interesting characters, “John Wick: Chapter 4” is all about the extended action sequences, and they are numerous and bursting with impressive stunt work. A battle royale inside the Osaka Continental is brilliant but goes on FOREVER. In a stunningly well-filmed scene in a Berlin nightclub, Wick does battle with an obese psychopath with gold teeth and his henchmen, as the dancers continue to party while barely noticing the carnage. Another ridiculous slam-bang set piece transpires in the middle of the circular traffic madness around the Arc de Triomphe, with John and various foes bouncing off cars as if they’re inside a pinball machine. Then there’s the penultimate sequence that takes place on the 222 steps leading to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, with the beleaguered, battered and bruised John Wick taking so many hits we half-expect to hear “Tub-thumping” by Chumbawamba on the soundtrack.

By that point, even the filmmakers seem to be acknowledging that we’re in live-action, blood-soaked cartoon territory, and John Wick has become something of a superhero. (He never seems to eat or sleep and rarely even takes a drink, save for a swig of Japanese whiskey with his old friend Koji in Osaka.) Reeves is essentially in Clint Eastwood territory as John Wick, who rarely strings together more than a dozen words at a time and maintains a stoic expression whether he’s saying goodbye to an old friend, fending off a seemingly endless stream of would-be killers or sustaining serious wounds. As much as we love this guy, we might be getting close to the moment when it would be best for all concerned if he figured out a way to disappear forever and live out the rest of his life in quiet anonymity.

Maybe even get a puppy.

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CALENDAR

APRIL 1

THE 'GRANDEST CONGRESS'

Major General Edward Braddock, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces in North America, landed in Alexandria on March 26, 1775. He assumed command of all North American military forces and lodged Carlyle House, then the grandest dwelling in town. While staying there, Braddock convened a meeting of five colonial governors. Carlyle called this gathering "the Grandest Congress ... ever known on the Continent." Visitors will experience Braddock's visit and the French and Indian War firsthand through costumed interpreters. Admission is free, but a \$5 donation is suggested.

Time:

Noon to 4 p.m.

Location:

121 N. Fairfax St.

Information:

go.evvnt.com/1577915-0

APRIL 2

POTLUCK PICNIC FOR PEACE

Join the Veterans for Peace to board the 39-foot wooden boat Golden Rule. Learn the history behind the voyage. Listen to tales from the crew. Bring your own utensils and drinking glass.

Time:

Noon to 4 p.m.

Location:

8999 Fort Hunt Road

Information:

vfpgoldenruleproject.org

APRIL 5

CLIMATE DATA WORKSHOP

Community members who are eight and up are invited to join the Office of Climate Action's discussions about climate change. Use local climate-related data to understand global changes, impacts of those changes and hear how everyone needs to contribute to the solution. Workshop includes modeling clay to visualize a local data set of your choice. Registration required.

Time:

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Location:

901 Wythe St.

Information:

research.net/r/AlexandriaVA-ClimateDataWorkshop

APRIL 14

FRENCH CLASSICAL MUSIC

Enjoy an evening of French Classical Music presented by French-Italian pianist and organist Adriano Spampinato. Sponsored by St. Paul's Episcopal Church and the Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee, the performance will feature musical selections from France's most notable classical composers. An outdoor wine reception on the church grounds follows.

Time:

7 to 8 p.m.

Location:

228 South Pitt St.

Information:

shop.alexandriava.gov/EventPurchase.aspx?dateselected=4/14/2023

CHERRY BLOSSOMS THROUGH ART

In partnership with the National Cherry Blossom Festival, Torpedo Factory Art Center invites visitors to explore the celebrated cherry blossoms through art demonstrations, music and interactive activities among three floors of open studios and galleries.

Time:

7 to 10 p.m.

Location:

105 North Union St.

Information:

torpedofactory.org

APRIL 15

STREAM CLEANUP

In celebration of Earth Day and participation with the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Potomac River Cleanup, the Stormwater Management Division is hosting a cleanup along the banks of Four Mile Run.

Time:

9 to 11 a.m.

Location:

3700 Commonwealth Ave.

Information:

apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=51830

RIVER CLEANUP Join the Friends of Dyke Marsh and the National Park Service for the 35th annual Potomac River cleanup in

partnership with the Alice Ferguson Foundation. A trash cleanup along the Potomac River shoreline in Dyke Marsh, Belle Haven Park and the Haul Road Trail. Please register. Gloves, bags and other supplies will be provided. Please dress appropriately and bring your

own water bottle.

Time:

10 a.m. to Noon

Location:

Belle Haven Park near the south parking lot

Information:

forms.office.com/g/xfavwk5dGn



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HOMES

Three foolproof ways to add value to your home

BY BRANDPOINT

Fluctuating interest rates and an ever-changing housing market have inspired many homeowners to reimagine their space, favoring renovation over relocation. Upgrades not only make a home more attractive, they also often bring innovative, low-maintenance solutions to make your most familiar surroundings feel beautiful and comfortable.

With an endless supply of home improvement shows and picturesque inspiration on social media, it can be tricky knowing where to start. Here are four simple ways to make your home design dreams come true while adding lasting value to your property.

Beautiful, durable surfaces

We all know kitchens and



Mix and match styles based on each room's cabinetry.

PHOTO/BRANDPOINT

bathrooms can make or break the first impression. These spaces are the heart of the home, where we gather, work and play every day. These rooms need surfaces that are beautiful and strong. It's more inspiring to cook when you don't have to worry about stains and scratches. That's why fresh, lasting countertops, flooring, backsplashes and cabinet cladding are renovation must-haves.

Marble-inspired colorways can elevate surfaces in any space, but they're durable enough for everyday use making them perfect for bath or kitchen applications.

Use lighting to make your space shine

Home lighting is a powerful design element which can

SEE **VALUE**

| 21

HOME OF THE WEEK



PHOTOS/BTW IMAGEST

Left: Waterfront view from the patio. **Middle Left:** Large formal dining room. **Middle Right:** Beautiful pool for residents. **Right:** The elegant River Room.

Waterfront living at its best

Overlooking the Potomac River, this gorgeous apartment located in Alexandria's coveted Porto Vecchio has been completely and thoughtfully renovated. Residents have access to a limousine, sumptuously decorated reception hall and a 24-hour concierge. This is a condominium building like no other. Old world elegance exudes from the sophisticated decorating and design of all the public rooms in the building.

Enter the red lacquered elevator and travel to the 7th floor where brand new flooring and stylish light fixtures in the foyer welcoming you to Apartment 707. A powder room with designer grey cabinetry is ideally situated for guests. A brand-new stackable washer and dryer are adjacent in a separate private closet. Elegantly engineered hardwood floors and a wood-burning fireplace with contemporary floor to

ceiling stacked stone surround.

Perfect for morning coffees, evening dinners and all-day relaxation, soak in the Potomac River, National Harbor and the glorious Porto Vecchio pool from your balcony. The kitchen opens to the dining room which is a chef's dream with never used LG appliances, plenty of prep space and beautiful cabinetry. The primary suite in this apartment is a haven of peace. A newly refurbished primary

bathroom has intricate tile work and an oversized soaking tub with separate shower. Additional updates include sound proofing insulation in the mechanical closet and bathroom exhaust fan with soothing colors and music. This offering is complete with a garage parking space, a storage unit and all the wonderful amenities Porto Vecchio offers. Enjoy the tennis courts, pool, sauna, fabulous exercise room, library and two reception rooms with catering kitchens for private parties. A magical place to call home.

AT A GLANCE

Address:

1250 S. Washington St.
#707, Alexandria, 22314

Neighborhood:

Porto Vecchio

Price:

\$620,000

Square feet:

1,151

Bedrooms:

1

Bathrooms:

1.5

Year built:

1983

Contact:

Victoria Kilcullen-Bond

Long and Foster

longandfoster.com/

VictoriaKilcullen

victoriaskbond@gmail.com

703-790-1990

703-915-8845

HOMES

VALUE FROM | 20 help show off your decorative finishes, like surfacing or furniture. Today's options give homeowners myriad choices to make any room stand out from fixtures to lightbulbs. Recessed lighting is always a functional option, but many contemporary designers recommend creating focal points with bold, sculptural pendant lights. In settings like a sun-

room or reading nook use materials that include natural textures, glass or mixed metals. Whether you're going for a traditional look or a mid-century modern feel, thoughtful lighting that accompanies your style is well worth the time and effort.

Find photo-worthy finishes

While it may seem like a small upgrade, details like fau-

cet or door knob finishes have a big impact on the overall look and feel of your home. Finishes elevate functional elements. Don't hide handles and faucets. Use matte black, brushed metal or even gold to complement or contrast design features. And don't be afraid to mix and

match styles based on each room's cabinetry, countertops or wall color. It's the perfect way to add personal touches to each space.

No matter where you start, you can bring your home to the next level. From installing new surfacing for countertops

or vanities to finding the perfect fixtures, there are plenty of creative ways to enhance your home and create lasting value. By choosing high-quality, durable features, you are building a beautiful home and creating a more effortless and enjoyable lifestyle.



PHOTO/BRANDPOINT

Create focal points with sculptural pendant lights.

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Our View

Artfully done

Quick, name something – other than paper product companies – that began pre-pandemic, grew stronger as COVID-19 raged, and is currently thriving.

The list is short. Happily, Alexandria's public art exhibits at Waterfront Park, which began in 2019 and have continued to delight, are on it.

As with most high profile decisions that involve public property, Alexandrians expressed a wide range of opinions during the public comment period about what should grace the place of honor at the foot of King Street after the old Boat Club was demolished. Some people were in favor of a fixed statue of George Washington or another historical figure, while others advocated for a range of other options.

We think the City of Alexandria got this one just right when city leaders chose to have a series of temporary art exhibits on the waterfront.

Rotating public art installations keep the waterfront fresh. They offer residents a window into what artists make of our waterfront and its history, present and future.

"Mirror Mirror" by SOFTlab was the first installation, in 2019. It was followed by "Wrought, Knit, Labors, Legacies" by Olalekan Jeyifous in 2020, as the pandemic began racing through the United States. "Groundswell" by Mark Reigelman followed in 2021.

And last year's "I Love You" by Roberto Behar and Rosario Marquardt of R&R Studios absolutely delighted. No one who saw it will soon forget the giant letters, in pink neon, that adorned Waterfront Park with its statement that's both simple and sagacious. The sign was a magnet for selfies and family photos and brought a joyful feeling to Waterfront Park.

The newest installation, which was officially unveiled on Saturday, is called "Two Boxes of Oranges and Admonia Jackson." The unusual title comes from research by artist Nina Cooke John about the contents of ships that docked along Alexandria's commercial waterfront in the past. Those contents ranged from the mundane to the tragic, from foodstuffs to enslaved humans.

Cooke John's project, which evokes the spokes of ship hulls that have been discovered during archaeological digs along Alexandria's waterfront as it's been redeveloped in the past decade, is simultaneously visually appealing, somber and thought provoking.

Each installation so far at Waterfront Park has been thought-provoking and visually interesting. Not everyone is going to love each project, of course. But that's the beauty of the rotation. If what's there right now isn't your cup of tea, the next one might well leave you filled with awe – or giggling with delight.

That's the nature of art.

Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson

Photo of the Week



A recent sunrise looking up King Street.

PHOTO/LEE MOODY

Your Views

We need a Times story on Amazon

To the editor:

Years have gone by since the Alexandria city government, then led by Mayor William D. Euille, announced it wanted the Amazon East Coast headquarters to locate here. Amazon-related stories have been prominent in our local news ever since. Recently reputable news sources have reported that Amazon's previous record growth has ended or at least slowed significantly. The Times has yet to publish a news story about this.

All of us who live here need to know what to expect. We need to know in particular how our mayor and council will respond to these changed circumstances. Human life, either individually or as a community of whatever size, will never be static. What are our leaders' plans and expectations for our near term future?

We appear to have weathered the worst of the health crises caused by COVID-19. However I believe COVID wrought long-lasting changes to the way residents live, work and shop. People with marketable

skills they can use with just a home office and a computer are embracing work from home.

Ordering from Amazon or some other online service has less attraction than it did when avoiding all strangers was wise. Those brick and mortar stores at the Potomac Yard shopping center no longer seem as obsolete as they did a few years ago.

Not so much office space for businesses attracted by Amazon is going to be needed. Meanwhile our long awaited Potomac Yard Metro is permanently located on an infilled wetland. It would have better served the existing Potomac Yard residents if it had been built on solid ground nearer to their homes.

Global warming is a threat to human life more deadly than COVID. More serious attention needs to be paid to that too.

I am sorry for the gloomy tone of this letter. However, problems are never solved or even ameliorated by ignoring them.

-Katy Cannady,
Alexandria

Your Views

At-large elections silence minority voices

To the editor:

Thank you for the Our View editorial “Something’s wrong here” in your March 23, 2023 issue, and for identifying the last two elected officials to “push repeatedly for actual cuts in spending” as former Councilor Frank Fannon and former Vice Mayor Bill Cleveland, both Republicans.

We haven’t had a Republican on Alexandria’s City Council since 2012, and we have been living ever since under City Council’s one-party rule where conservative viewpoints are not represented. Our wallets are feeling the consequences.

Local elections used to be held in May and tended to attract a smaller number of voters than in November. May voters were more actively engaged in, and concerned about, local issues. This resulted in a more politically diverse voting population and in a more ideologically diverse City Council.

When the majority-Democrat City Council voted 5-2 in June 2009 to move future local elections from May to November, it was the death knell for conservative representation under at-large voting. Indeed, at-large elections by their very nature give control of city hall to one party alone and thus form a ‘majority tyranny’ that silences any dissent. At-large voting also erases incentives to ensure that elected council members are geographically dispersed. Familiarity with, and accountability to, neighborhoods simply evaporates.

Alexandria moved to at-large voting in 1950, after almost 150 years of voting by wards, in order to silence minority neighborhoods. Many in the city are now justifiably urging a return to electing our City Council members by wards so that silenced neighborhoods can regain their voices and proportional influence. It wouldn’t guarantee a Republican or an Independent could get elected, but chances would be somewhat improved for ending one-party rule and it would definitely increase accountability to neighborhoods.

The 2021 state and local level elections pitting Republicans against Democrats indicate that the Republican Alexandria voter pool is anywhere from 31% – what Annetta Catchings received when she ran for mayor – to the 24% that Glenn Youngkin received when he won the governorship. That’s a good portion of our citizenry.

Yes, as you say, ‘Something’s wrong here’ – not only with taxes, but also when a quarter of our voters have no elected representative voice at the local level and when neighborhoods have no elected champion.

From both ideological and geographical standpoints, City Council isn’t very diverse, inclusive or equitable, is it?

-Linda App,
Alexandria

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.

My View | Heather Peeler

The pandemic’s ‘long tail’

BY HEATHER PEELER

In the past few weeks, reports from local nonprofits and studies from research institutions have presented sobering news. Despite our investments made in the social safety net and the progress we saw in child poverty over the last few years in response to the pandemic, too many people remain in a downward spiral of poverty. The Brookings Institution has ranked the Washington metropolitan area as one of the worst when it comes to inclusive growth. On nearly every measure of financial security, health and wellbeing, people of color fare worse than their white neighbors.

Many low-income families continue to face significant financial hurdles that were exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Now that eviction moratoriums and state rent relief programs have ended, low-income families have few options for managing the region’s high cost of living. According to the City of Alexandria’s eviction dashboard, since the start of the year, 467 households have received a writ of eviction – meaning eviction is imminent. This is a 372% increase from the previous year. The average amount owed at eviction judgment is \$9,319.

Researchers from the Brookings Institution found that in our region, more than 80% of people are burdened by housing costs; they spend more than a third of their income on housing leaving little left over for other essentials like food, transportation, childcare and other expenses. The City of Alexandria’s Housing Department reports that someone needs to earn more than \$77,000 per year – or an hourly wage of \$37/hour – to afford a one-bedroom apartment in our community.

To scrape together rent money, a family may forgo other expenses, namely food. Jennifer Ayers, Executive Director at ALIVE!, Alexandria’s primary food distributor, recently shared that they are experiencing a spike in demand. In January and February this year, 9,000 households representing 29,597 people received grocery bags of donated food – nearly the same levels of food distributed during the height of the pandemic. These numbers are likely to increase. This month, approximately 3,800 Alexandria households will see their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as food stamps, benefits decrease by \$95 or more per month due to the end of emergency allotments started during the pandemic.

The City of Alexandria anticipated that the hardship brought on by the pandemic would have a long tail. They wisely invested federal American Rescue Plan Act Funds in efforts to help Alexandrians disproportionately impacted by the pandemic secure the resources they need to get back on

their feet. One initiative is the Alexandria Recurring Income for Success and Equity guaranteed income pilot study. It provides 170 randomly selected low-income households with \$500 in supplemental income for 24 months. If the Alexandria program follows the performance of dozens of other pilots around the country, participants will use the funds

to buy basics, including food and gas, while also taking steps to improve their overall financial stability, such as obtaining a better paying job or securing professional credentials.

In addition, in partnership with ACT, the city launched the Community Access and Emergency Support program. This program funds community-based organizations to help residents navigate the complicated web of public benefits and community support and provide emer-

gency financial assistance for people in urgent financial need. You can read more about the program and see a list of the grantees at actforalexandria.org.

The Community Access Grantees provided one-to-one engagement and navigation assistance to more than 747 households in need in 2022. By the end of this month, Emergency Support grantees will have disbursed more than \$1.3 million to people in need. The most common, urgent requests that grantees have received in recent months are support for the essentials: food and rent.

These programs provide peace of mind, compassion, and tangible support. One client of Lazarus Ministries, an emergency support ministry operated by Christ Church and St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, noted:

“Thank you so much for your help through this entire process! You were a blessing. My balance is paid in full. Once I get my savings back up, I would like to donate to your church to help someone else.”

I know the Community Access and Emergency Support grantees will continue to meet the needs of Alexandrians with dedication, commitment and resourcefulness in the face of growing demand and shrinking resources. And I am hopeful that our community will rise to the challenge like we always have to make sure all of our neighbors thrive.

You can help! Spring2ACTion, Alexandria’s Giving Day, is on April 26. Not only can you support your favorite nonprofit organizations, you can also give to the Alexandria Resilience Fund. This fund, established in 2020, is an opportunity for all of us to help our neighbors struggling to make ends meet and who are facing eviction from their home. Every donation counts. I hope you will join us at spring2ACTion.org.

The writer is president and CEO of ACT for Alexandria.



HEATHER PEELER

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Vola Lawson: Alexandria's modern City manager

Calling Vola Lawson's career in Alexandria city government pioneering doesn't convey the magnitude of how it changed the way Alexandria runs itself. Lawson began as a volunteer with the Parkfairfax Civic Association, which led to a position in the city government in community outreach at the Economic Opportunities Commission. Her first promotion was to Community Development Block Grant Coordinator, her next was to Assistant City Manager for Housing, and in 1985, City Council selected her to be the acting city manager. She became the permanent city manager that September and served in that position for 15 years.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, Lawson grew up with grandparents who impressed upon her the values of justice and equality that stayed with her for the rest of her life. Her grandfather was a longtime member of the Atlanta Board of Education, who introduced her to many prominent African American leaders in the area, including Martin Luther King, Sr. She left Atlanta for college and met David Lawson when he was working on his doctorate. As newlyweds, they moved to Parkfairfax here in Alexandria in 1965, and her lifelong love with Alexandria began.



COURTESY PHOTO

Vola Lawson in the 2000s.

There isn't enough space in this column to list all of Lawson's accomplishments, but as a city employee, she helped complete both the Dip and Gadsby's Urban Renewal projects.

"I brought to the job credibility. A lot of these people knew me from working out in target neighborhoods and knew me from being involved in civil rights and similar movements," Lawson said in an interview. "I was the third

woman in America to be city manager of a city with a population of 100,000 or more."

Upon becoming city manager, Lawson overhauled a police department that suffered from incompetence and cronyism. In the early 1990s, the bottom of the commercial real estate market fell out, which created a fiscal crisis for the city. Cutting the budget while maintaining a balance that was fair and responsible for as many residents as possible proved a big challenge.

Lawson also insisted on a more professional and more diverse city workforce. As she put it:

"I never believed it's a question of, 'Oh, I either want somebody who's competent, or I want a woman or a minority.'"

Perhaps the people who knew Lawson's stewardship of our city best were her children. Her son David remembers:

"Some may not know she was a big sports fan. She rooted every Sunday for the Washington Commanders – however, she made the unpopular decision to oppose the ... new [football] stadium on the site of Potomac rail yard. She was adamant that the property be preserved for mixed-use and would ultimately be a better source of tax revenue for the City of Alexandria."

Lawson's son Peter said: "Vola loved and cared about Alexandrians from many different backgrounds, but was known as much for her sharp and tough mind as she was for her big heart. She was fond of the expression, 'Have an open mind, but not so open your brains fall out.'"

Lawson's son McArthur reminisces:

"Vola was a smart, tough woman. She was a good listener and knew how to make decisions. She was also compassionate and a progressive visionary who fought hard for all humans, especially women's rights."

Lawson died on Dec. 10, 2013 and is buried in Ivy Hill Cemetery in Alexandria. Alexandria's animal shelter and the lobby of city hall are both named in her honor. To this day, Alexandria is shaped by the career of Vola Lawson.

In honor of Women's History Month, we invite you to read our series on women's history in Alexandria throughout the month of March. For more on Women's History in Alexandria, please visit www.alexandriava.gov/historic-alexandria/womens-history-in-alexandria.

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

Weekly Poll

Last Week

Are you happy with Alexandria's property tax rate, which has risen 36% since fiscal year 2007?

84% No, that's an outrageous increase.

13% Yes, it's needed to fund city priorities.

2% I'm not sure.

0% I owe property taxes?

This Week

Take the poll at alextimes.com

Do you intend to see the new art installation in Waterfront Park "Two Boxes of Oranges and Admonia Jackson?"

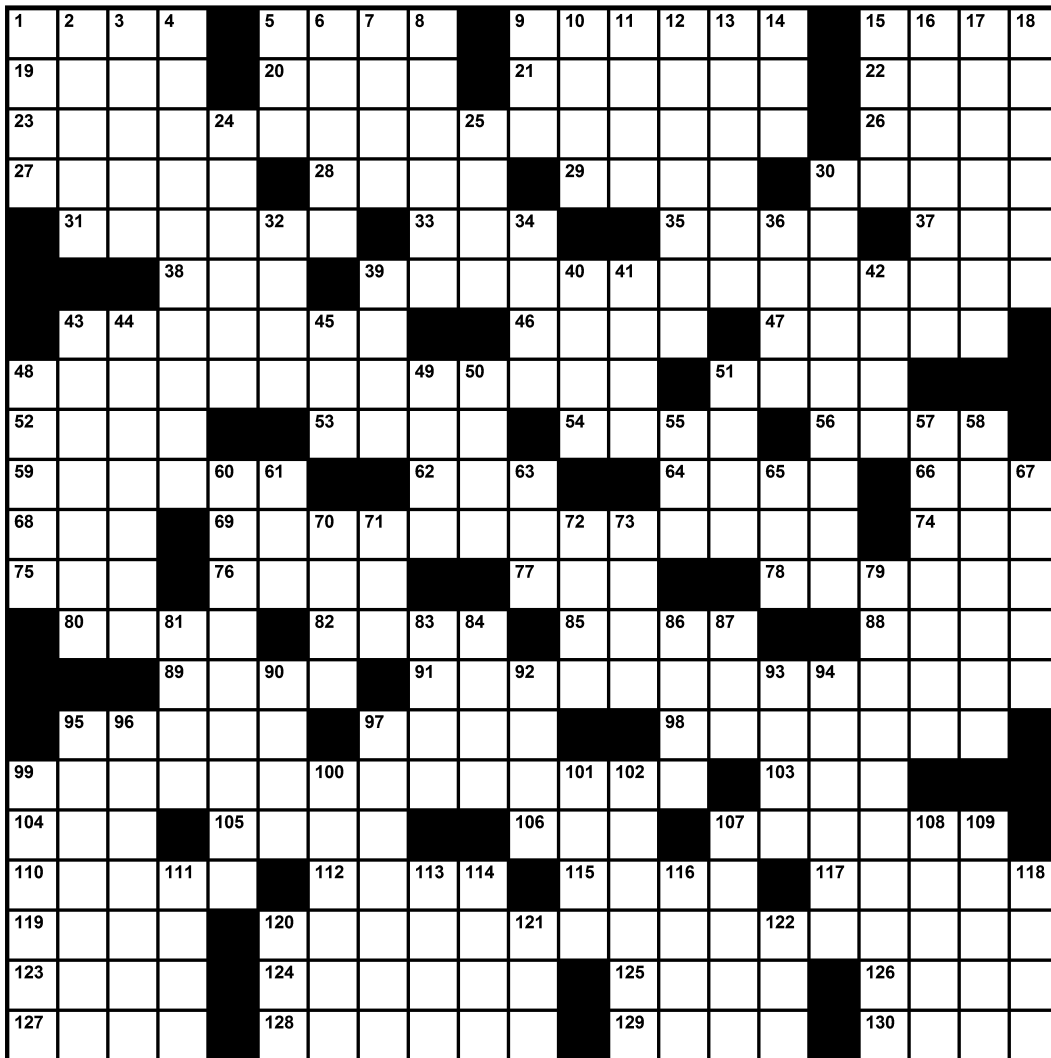
A) Yes, I've seen them all.

B) Yes, this will be my first.

C) No, I won't make it down to the waterfront.

D) I don't like art.

Weekly Words



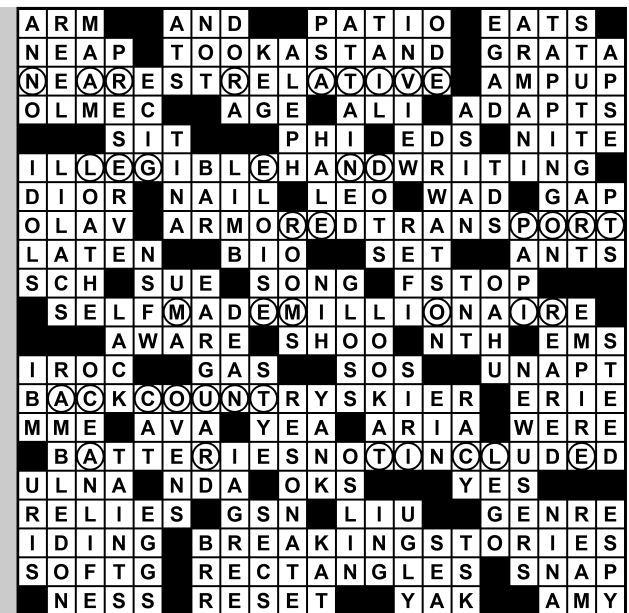
BUSINESS NEWS by Rebecca Goldstein, edited by Jeff Chen

- ACROSS**
- 1 Private areas in a modern office
 - 5 Bloke
 - 9 Capital of Kansas
 - 15 Float, as an aroma
 - 19 From the top
 - 20 Special Agent ____ Scully
 - 21 Tippy-tops
 - 22 Opera solo
 - 23 Business headline about a dominant year in the cruise industry?
 - 26 Skateboarder's sneaker brand
 - 27 Private student
 - 28 Toyota takeback
 - 29 Makeup of bath bubbles
 - 30 Way to pay
 - 31 Inconsistent
 - 33 No. on an invoice
 - 35 Ride with a chauffeur
 - 37 Freezer cubes
 - 38 Also
 - 39 ... search engine censorship?
 - 43 Tidepool vegetation
 - 46 They can be massaged and bruised
 - 47 Mitigate
 - 48 ... wasted efforts on incremental iPhone improvements?
 - 51 Arthur ____ Courage Award
 - 52 Luxuriate (in)
 - 53 "Big hair, don't care" 'do
 - 54 Laptop brand
 - 56 Org. with ergonomics standards
 - 59 "Sure about that?"
 - 62 Busy group in Apr.
 - 64 Org. defending free speech
 - 66 First choice for dinner, for short?
 - 68 Key in a "three-finger salute"
 - 69 ... counterfeit products sent through Prime delivery?
 - 74 Feathery accessory
 - 75 Genre to get in your feels
 - 76 Muck
 - 77 Reddit Q&A
 - 78 Second cup of coffee, maybe
 - 80 Finales
 - 82 Fort on the Ohio River
 - 85 Executive office shape
 - 88 Chemistry concept
 - 89 They carry a charge
 - 91 ... extensive airport delays?
 - 95 Luxury Italian clothier
 - 97 Not this
 - 98 Devotion
 - 99 ... car rental data processing?
 - 103 Airport code near Temple Square
 - 104 Molecule at the center of the central dogma of biology
 - 105 Cambodian continent
 - 106 Short flight
 - 107 Negatives from the White House
 - 110 Commentator Rashad
 - 112 List in a bibliography
 - 115 "Daddy," in El Salvador
 - 117 Yosemite peak, familiarly
 - 119 Barbecue briquette
 - 120 ... construction equipment with faulty brakes?
 - 123 Cruella portrayer in 2021
 - 124 Strapping young lad
 - 125 Is under the weather
 - 126 Sheep-ish mates?
 - 127 Visualizes
 - 128 Gift for an aspiring mixologist
 - 129 Good Queen ____ (Elizabeth I)
 - 130 MRI order?
- DOWN**
- 1 Treaty
 - 2 Barely best
 - 3 Greek D
 - 4 Uses persuasive language
 - 5 Peer of a Lt. Col.
 - 6 Unshaved
 - 7 Chips for a hand
 - 8 Venmo alternative
 - 9 Paving product
 - 10 Latin "work"
 - 11 Cancun currency
 - 12 Blows off steam?
 - 13 "That's for you"
 - 14 Donkey
 - 15 Surfer's platform

DEATH NOTICES

- MOLLIE ABRAHAM** (96), of Alexandria, March 25, 2023
- ALVERT BANKS** (70), of Alexandria, March 15, 2023
- RACHELLE BENNETT** (89), of Alexandria, March 5, 2023
- VIRGINIA "GIGI" BERBRICH** (79), of Alexandria, March 21, 2023
- VERNA BROWN** (86), of Alexandria, March 27, 2023
- WILLIAM "BILL" LAWRENCE BURLING** (72), formerly of Alexandria, Feb. 27, 2023
- LARRY FULK** (88), of Alexandria, March 7, 2023
- PATRICIA GINSBURG** (80), of Alexandria, March 5, 2023
- CYNTHIA PEARSON** (71), of Alexandria, March 11, 2023
- BENECIO RAUL DE PAOLIS-QUISPE** (23), of Alexandria, March 8, 2023
- VAUGHN VERVERS** (54), of Alexandria, March 19, 2023

Solutions from last week



- 16 Coffee variety
- 17 Overly particular
- 18 Flavors
- 24 Turn into
- 25 Free room, maybe
- 30 Property that requires some imagination
- 32 Horseshoe spot
- 34 Biblical pronoun
- 36 Degrees for some CFOs
- 39 "You wish!"
- 40 Taj Mahal city
- 41 Brown pear
- 42 World Cup cheers
- 43 "Enough with the sob story"
- 44 Greek E
- 45 Madrid Mrs.
- 48 Humble home
- 49 Snap, Crackle and Pop, for one
- 50 Ripped
- 51 West Coast gas station
- 55 It can be lent or bent
- 57 Zoo enclosure
- 58 ____ tour (opportunity to make amends)
- 60 "This is the end for me!"
- 61 "I can't unhear that!"
- 63 Rejuvenating place
- 65 Printer tray abbr.
- 67 Tropical trees
- 70 Boats like Noah's
- 71 Aim of some meditation
- 72 Love, in Bolivia
- 73 Patel of "Ghosts"
- 79 Leaf-peeping lure
- 81 Small dent
- 83 "The Gathering Place" island
- 84 Rogue or Storm
- 86 Common sports injury sites (Abbr.)
- 87 Vientiane resident, say
- 90 Pedant's picks
- 92 Write in stone
- 93 FiDi trading floor
- 94 Get cold feet
- 95 Best Musical Tony winner in 2015
- 96 Sushi bar appetizer
- 97 Backstabber
- 99 Orthodontist's application
- 100 Insect with a 17-year cycle
- 101 Pueblo people
- 102 Smog testing site?
- 107 Small beakers
- 108 Sparkle
- 109 Hayek of "House of Gucci"
- 111 Sighed word
- 113 Perfect scores
- 114 Pennsylvania port city
- 116 Barre bend
- 118 Whispered "Over here!"
- 120 Ride with a driver
- 121 Winter hrs. in Washington
- 122 Online aggregator format letters

Classifieds



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Please publish the following item in the legal notice section of your newspaper.

Full Name(s) of Owner(s): Get Plated 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: Get Plated LLC
(Trade Name)

642 S Pickett ST
(Exact street address of where business will trade)

Alexandria
(City/Town)

Alexandria City Virginia 223044620
(County) (State) (Zip + 4)

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL AUTHORITY (ABC)

for a Retail Restaurant or Caterer Application - Caterer, Wine, Beer, Mixed Beverages, Consumed On Premises
(Type(s) of license(s) applied for)


license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

(Name and Title of Owner/Partner/Officer authorizing advertisement)

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.

Objections should be registered within 30 days at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

805-52 (rev. 07/2018). This is an official state document. All information contained or submitted therein is public information. Please Retail License Application, page 10 refer to privacy statement (pg. 3) regarding personal/tax information. Reference instructions (provided separately) with questions.



Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority

www.abc.virginia.gov/licenses | 804.213.4400 | 7450 Freight Way • Mechanicsville VA 23116 | PO Box 218 • Mechanicsville VA 23111

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): MASUMA AKTER
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: AKTER LLC
(Trade Name)

1210 FORT MEYER DR.
(Location where business will trade)

ARLINGTON
(City/Town)

ARLINGTON, VA 22209
(County) (State) (Zip + 4)

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY

for a RETAIL license
(Type(s) of license(s) applied for)

to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

(Name and title of owner/partner/officer authorizing advertisement)

Date notice posted at establishment: 03/23/23

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.

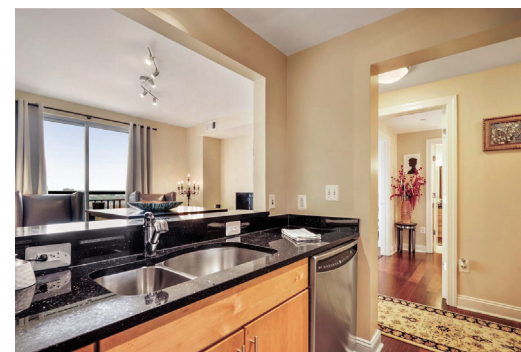
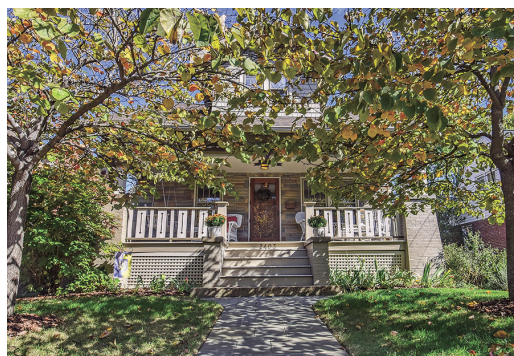
OFFICE USE ONLY

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

Form 806-4 (Rev. 09/2021). 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

Spring weather came early this year, so let me help you get an early start on your housing needs!



UNDER CONTRACT

515 N. West Street
22314 | Old Town Alexandria
Offered at \$850,000

3-bedroom, 2-bath end townhouse two blocks from Braddock Road Metro. The nicely renovated and freshly painted interior reflects a blend of the earlier days with the conveniences and upgrades of today. Renovated kitchen and the sunroom addition have rich red tiles.

SOLD

2403 Ridge Road Drive
22302 | Braddock Heights
Sold - \$1,053,000

Classic, stone and shingle, detached Sears Kit home circa 1929, lovingly improved and expanded over the years of stewardship with the current owners. Warm wood floors throughout most of the main and upper levels.

RENTED

2050 Jamieson Avenue #1403
22314 | The Jamieson
Rented - \$1,900/month

Delightful 1-bedroom unit with garage parking located between the King Street and Eisenhower Metro stations. Lovely wood floors, large sliding windows allow for great light and city views.



Donna Cramer, Realtor®

We're in this together, and I will guide you home.

Licensed in Virginia

703.627.9578 | dramer@mcenearney.com | donnacramer.com

109 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.549.9292 | Equal Housing Opportunity

