Adventure is in Ethan Bond’s blood. The British-born Alexandrian is a descendant of Norman Knights. His ancestors sailed with globe-circling explorer Sir Francis Drake. Bond has helped launch spy planes over Saddam Hussein-ruled Iraq, ridden horseback alongside Queen Elizabeth II’s carriage and erected a makeshift hospital to contain the spread of COVID-19 among Death Row inmates at San Francisco’s San Quentin prison.

Now Bond is bound for what may be his most challenging mission yet: journeying to Ukraine to rebuild its military and civilian healthcare systems amid a brutal war with Russia.

“We haven’t seen a war like this since World War II,” said Bond, 47, who will soon travel first to Poland and then to Ukraine as a vice president at Aspen Medical, which “provides medical services in places where they would not otherwise be,” he said – like Ebola Treatment Centers in West Africa in 2014 or field hospitals in Mosul during the counteroffensive against ISIS in 2015. The Allies were “fighting an aggressor who was completely unjustified and, in many ways, very evil. I think we’re seeing that now with the Russian invasion of Ukraine.”

The invasion has decimated Ukraine’s healthcare infrastructure, destroying 500 medical centers, according to Bond. He alleges that Russian forces have deliberately targeted field hospitals and blood banks, in violation of the Geneva Convention. The erratic enemy will demand creativity from Bond and his team. He prefers not to publicize the specific tactics they plan to employ to treat casualties, but says “it’s a whole new way of fighting war.”

The son of a military family, Bond has played roles in the major conflicts of the 20th
"Bonnie and Courtney Rivkin helped my family buy the home of our dreams AND sell our current home during a very unpredictable housing market. We are SO grateful to them for their expertise, strategic thinking, kindness and hustle throughout the process. They were a pleasure to work with. Bonnie and Courtney are locals with a tremendous knowledge of the area (22301 and 22302, in our case). They know all the nuances to every neighborhood and are extremely well-connected with other realtors, which came in VERY handy when we bought our home. Having a duo also meant more communication, availability and expertise. I'd recommend the Rivkin Group to anyone!"
-Buyer & Seller (Rosemont, Braddock Heights)

“We absolutely recommend Bonnie and Courtney, the mother-daughter dynamic duo, as your next Realtors! They were always accessible, professional, and patient with our many questions. Their combined expertise and strengths enabled us to do what now seems an incredible feat . . . sell a home, buy a home, and move in all in the span of a few weeks.”
-Seller & Buyer (Old Town, Fort Hunt)

“This was our first time selling a home, and the market was going through wild swings. Bonnie and Courtney kept the ship steady and managed the process smoothly from start to finish with numerous personal touches along the way. After painstaking preparations, we had multiple strong offers above asking price within 5 days, and closing was a breeze.”
-Seller (Old Town)
Armed robbery at 7-11 in Old Town

At approximately 12:03 a.m. on Wednesday the Alexandria Police Department responded to an emergency call according to Public Information Officer Marcel Bassett. A male suspect entered the 7-11 at 800 Franklin St. and fired a single gunshot. He fled the scene after stealing an undisclosed amount of money from the store. No injuries were reported. This is an active investigation and any information should be shared with the APD at 703-746-4444.

ACPS Titan robotics makes impact

Alexandria City High School’s robotics team won the prestigious Impact Award at the Chesapeake District Championships on April 8. “Winning this award for the second year demonstrates all the hard work we’ve put into our own team as well as our younger robotics teams. I am so proud of the team and all that we’ve accomplished,” Team President Nick Kruse said in a statement. The team will travel to Houston, Texas later this month to compete at the highest level for the sport at the Championship Event.

City street repairs beginning next week

On April 17, the city will begin its paving, sidewalk and alley repair program. Those whose streets are scheduled for resurfacing will receive advance notice of paving work. “No Parking” signs will be placed in affected areas. For more information, visit alexandria.va.gov/Potholes

Free tax prep for qualifying residents

The city is offering free tax preparation for qualifying residents now through April 19. Experts from Community Tax Aid will be on hand to provide help. For more information, visit alexandriava.gov/economic-support/free-tax-preparation

Meet Lunette!

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

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“Because everyone needs a home.”
Derailment at Potomac Yard station

At around 5 a.m. on Tuesday, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority notified followers via Twitter that a heavy rail work vehicle derailed outside of the Potomac Yard Metro Station. According to the WMATA, the vehicle used to transport equipment became stranded on the railroad tracks. Service was delayed between Potomac Yard and airport. By approximately 10 a.m., the vehicle had been moved and normal service had resumed.

-lgolden@alextimes.com

Historic Garden Week turns 90

The Old Town house and garden tour returns on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Five private homes and gardens will open to visitors. This one-day-only event is part of the 90th annual Historic Garden Week in Virginia. Tour tickets will provide access to the public gardens of Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall House, River Farm, Gunston Hall, Mount Vernon and Green Spring Gardens on the day of the tour. Tickets are $55 each and are available at vagardenweek.org in advance or at the Alexandria Visitor’s Center at 221 King St. on tour day.

-lgolden@alextimes.com
Navigating the Spring & Summer Real Estate Markets

A Real Estate Workshop with The MaryAshley Real Estate Group

April 22, 2023
9:30AM-11:00AM | COMPASS Offices 1004 King Street, Alexandria

Enjoy breakfast while having all of your real estate questions answered by industry experts!

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MaryAshley Zimmermann | 860.214.7474 maryashley@compass.com
Sexual assault awareness month

A series of events and activities have been organized in honor of April’s National Sexual Assault Awareness month. On April 26, all are invited to attend the annual Sexual Assault Survivor’s poetry share. On April 28, the Titan Takeover Teen Night will take place from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the William Ramsay Recreation Center. This is a free and safe event for youth featuring a DJ, photo booth, self-care stations and more. For more information on these events and more, visit alexandriava.gov/SexualViolence -lgolden@alextimes.com

Public hearing on open space

On April 20, the Park and Recreation Commission will hold a public hearing on amendments to the Public Open Space zone at the 901 Wythe St. The POS seeks comments in person or by mail or email through April 19th. For more information, visit alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=65170. Please mail written comments to RPCA, ATTN: Ana Vicinanzo, Project Manager, 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Following the public hearing, the Park & Recreation Commission will hold its regular monthly meeting. -lgolden@alextimes.com

Southern Living magazine ranked the Old Town Farmers’ Market as one of the top 12 markets in the South. Since 1753, the Old Town Farmers’ Market has offered local produce, meat, flowers, plants, baked goods and gifts. It is the oldest farmers’ market in America to be held continuously at the same site.

Farmers’ Market ranks in magazine

The Old Town Farmers’ Market is the oldest in the country.

Housing for all

The first of three community meetings for the Zoning for Housing initiative will take place at 5650 Sanger Ave. on April 18. The meeting is for community feedback and to provide a venue for questions and comments. Virtual attendance is an option. For more information, visit alexandriava.gov/Zoning.

R. Hamilton Morrison

Hamilton Morrison – father, entrepreneur, historic architecture expert, business founder, real estate developer, sailor and bon vivant – passed away peacefully on April 1, 2023, with his children at his side.

Morrison, known as Ham, had an aura about him that drew people into his personal orbit. His charisma made him all but irresistible to his many friends and family members. No recitation of Ham’s life would be complete without a description of his unique laugh, as it was an expression of his joie de vivre. A Ham Morrison laugh made total strangers stop in their tracks, turn and stare, then smile and giggle along with him. Starting deep in his diaphragm, the sound was a high-pitched wail requiring deep, gasping breaths to keep up with his expression of pure joy.

Early in his business career he founded the ad agency RH Morrison, Inc., which, to this day, 56 years later, remains one of the leading marketing firms in the mid-Atlantic under the name of Williams Whittle Associates. Displaying his architectural acumen, he consolidated several old buildings in Old Town into a single structure featuring a three-story atrium over a brick walkway and tropical garden, which served as the agency’s headquarters. His eye for architecture led the agency into many relationships with real estate developers, including the then-new town of Reston. He retired from the agency in 1978. Some believe that the Don Draper character in the TV series “Mad Men” was modeled after Ham.

Of his entrepreneurial activities, he was able to count 31 restorations in Old Town, receiving awards in Alexandria for historic renovation seven years in a row. Other restoration achievements include restoring the oldest marina on the Chesapeake Bay, converting the old sail maker’s quarters into seven apartments, and in Bermuda where he helped convert two old buildings into part of the Glencoe Hotel overlooking Hamilton Harbor. His latest venture led him into the problems associated with affordable housing in inner cities.

Much of Ham’s life centered around the water, which afforded him – and his friends and family – many adventures. He captained several voyages in his beloved Hinkley Bermuda 40 sailboat both north and south of the Chesapeake. Perhaps his most epic trip began on the Chesapeake to Bermuda, enduring the Gulfstream on the edge of a hurricane. From there, he sailed south to the British Virgin Islands and ultimately as far south as Antigua.

Ray Hamilton Morrison, Jr. was born in North Carolina in 1935. He is survived by three children, Ham Morrison (Mimi) of Charleston, South Carolina; Cary Morrison Cauthen (Clay) of Austin, Texas; and Amy Morrison of New York City as well as five grandchildren, Harrison Cauthen, Mary Brooks Cauthen and Wren Cauthen of Austin and Hamilton Morrison and Mary Lynn Morrison of Charleston.
and 21st centuries. Summers as an Army-sponsored cadet at the University of London in the 90s were spent with active regiments, including in Cyprus for Operation Desert Strike, the post-Gulf War response to Hussein’s attacks on the civil Kurdish population. Sandhurst Military Academy and the Household Cavalry, the British Army’s elite, invitation-only reconnaissance unit, followed. (Both Princes William and Harry joined the regiment – the former came after Bond’s time; the latter served at the same time as him in a different squadron and failed to win him over). Then came an era of highly charged deployments, from Bosnia and the Balkans campaign to, post-9/11, Afghanistan and Iraq. Bond is often asked if he’s scared to venture into conflict, particularly in a war as lawless as that in Ukraine, but he said his vast experience mitigates any sense of worry. “Why do I have absolutely zero fear? It’s not because I’m super brave. It’s because I’m super familiar with the threat.” After years of combat, Bond struggled more with the adjustment to civilian life. Two days after his military retirement in 2005, he flew to Iraq to work with defense contractor Aegis as U.S. troops were with-
Drawing. He stayed until 2012. His first wife was then pregnant with his son, Logan, now 11, and he diverted to Washington D.C. to help establish Aegis’s office there. Bond bristled at the banality: “I have left my comrades, I have left … a life that had great meaning to me, and now I’m working in a cubicle,” he recalled of his mindset. “That’s the tough bit – not going to war and having adventures.”

Still, his far-flung missions continued: Since joining Aspen, he’s been deployed to Sierra Leone, Liberia, South Sudan, Somalia and Libya. During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Bond was dispatched to San Francisco to quite literally right the ship on the quick-spreading Diamond Princess cruise liner.

Bond holds dual British and American citizenship and allegiance to both countries. He believes in American exceptionalism, even as he acknowledges his adopted country is far from perfect. He’s also an avowed supporter of King Charles III.

“I think he’s much-maligned because everybody loved Diana so much,” he said, but Bond applauds the new monarch’s history of work with his youth charity The Prince’s Trust and championing environmentalism long before it was trendy.

Bond served as Queen Elizabeth II’s carriage guard at her Golden Jubilee in 2002, riding beside her on horseback before a crowd of 2 million. “It was bloody hot,” Bond remembered. After hours along the parade route, the carriage returned to Buckingham Palace and the Queen asked the guards to wait a moment. Bond thought Her Majesty might offer them lemonade. Instead, “she came out with sugar cubes, apples and carrots for all the horses.”

He was an invited guest at the monarch’s funeral last year, calling her “refined and...
BOND

In 2020, Bond was inducted into The Order of St. John, the royal chivalric order first established by Queen Victoria, recognizing a life spent “to prevent and relieve sickness and injury, and to act to enhance the health and well-being of people anywhere in the world.”

Bond moved to Alexandria from Reston six years ago when he and his wife, Victoria, a realtor, had a meet-cute fit for a classic rom-com. Logan, then 5 or 6, introduced the couple at a mutual friend’s garden party. “I looked up and he’s walking across the garden with this bombshell on his arm,” Bond laughed.

He serves as an active member of the Color Guard of the St. Andrew’s Society of Washington D.C., the charitable organization which dates back to the founding of Alexandria. “It also means that we get to dress up in fabulous Scottish attire and join in the Alexandria Scottish walk,” Bond said. Victoria moonlights as a sommelier (Bond is partial to BRÜT Champagne & Wine Bar). Logan, a proud Boy Scout, is poised to follow in his family’s legacy of service. “Since he was knee-high to a grasshopper,” Bond said, “he’s wanted to join the military.”

After a lifetime of expeditions, Bond has settled – as much as he may ever settle – in Alexandria. Its charms remind him of the towns to which he sailed while growing up on the British coast: “It’s a great place to have roots.”

The writer is a contributing editor for Vogue. Her work also regularly appears in Vanity Fair, the New York Times and other publications.

Bond at San Quentin’s Death Row where he ran a COVID hospital in 2020.

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Exciting historic, semi-detached, 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhouse offers original heart pine floors, 2 skylights, generous rooms for entertaining, handsome millwork, and 3 fireplaces. This rare two-story home with family room off the renovated kitchen features top-of-the-line design with Thermador and Fisher-Paykel appliances, light colored granite and backsplash, white cabinets and drawers with ample storage. A light-filled primary suite features an updated ensuite bath with marble sink and skylight. Two additional bedrooms are spacious with sizable closets. Relax on the private brick terrace with mature landscaping and access to the 2 deeded off-street parking spaces.

Call Babs to put her expertise to work for you!
Play ball!

ALL to honor Beiro family’s longtime support on opening day this Saturday
BY JIM MCGRATH

Gerald Ford was president when the Beiro family began sponsoring Little League baseball teams in Alexandria in the mid-1970s. That tradition has continued for almost 50 years — and youth baseball players should still be wearing Beiro jerseys many years from now due to ongoing support from the Beiro Family Foundation.

The Beiro family will be honored for their decades of supporting ALL on Saturday, when the league’s Opening Day ceremony kicks off the 2023 youth baseball season at Little Simpson Field in Del Ray. Although their involvement started in the 70s, the Beiro Family Foundation took form in 1998 and serves as the focal point for many charitable activities, including ALL.

“Alexandria Little League is so grateful to AA Beiro Construction for being such a generous and dedicated sponsor to our league for so many years,” ALL President Sherry Reilly said in a statement. “The Beiro family has been a sponsor since the beginning, sponsoring two baseball teams every season for the past four-plus decades.”

It all began for the Beiro family in 1955 when Alex Sr., a Native New Yorker, and recent civil engineering graduate from the Catholic University of America, completed a three-year tour with the U.S. Army, one which included service in the Korean War. Now a civilian and beginning one of his first construction jobs in Pennsylvania, Beiro and his new bride, the former Jean Ann O’Connell were starting their family, which would grow to 11 with the addition of nine children – four sons and five daughters.

SEE BEIRO | 12

Obituary

Richard “Rusty” Shaw

It is with great sadness that the family of Richard “Rusty” Shaw announces his passing on March 23, 2023. He was 67. A celebration of life service is planned for Monday, April 17 at the Washington Street United Methodist Church at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Washington Street United Methodist Church Open Table Ministry.

Frustrated? Helpless? Stuck? Tired of overpaying for subpar service?

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Now offering: “The Nielsen Now” — a complimentary pick up and delivery of your vehicle — and a shuttle service!
The Beiro family’s dedication to our community baseball league has helped so many Alexandria youth.”

– Sherry Reilly, ALL president

The certificate Jeni Beiro received for participating in Little League in 1974, before the Beiro teams were formed.

BEIRO
FROM | 11

Will your home need some exterior TLC this year? Let us put our 36 years of experience to work for you!

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Climbing those tall ladders, working in the hot weather, and taking care of beautiful homes like yours since 1987.

The expanding family moved to Alexandria in the early 1960s and Beiro founded his own construction company in 1963, eventually settling on a homebase on Colvin Street. With his company growing to include projects throughout the metro D.C. area, and a staff approaching 250 people, the civic-minded leader was able to combine his loves – construction and sports – and weave them into the fabric of his new hometown.

“We were all sporty,” daughter Mary said. “Dad was a big baseball fan, and we’d go to Opening Day; in fact, we went to the very first Nationals game at RFK [in 2005].”

Ironically, Alex Sr. may not have played organized baseball as a youth and was better known for his prowess as a boxer. But his sons and daughters were all over the sporting map.

“We played just about everything,” Mary added.

Mary and the other girls – Ruth, Noreen, Sara and Jeni – played soccer and softball, while the sons – Alex Jr., Daniel, Greg and Chris – played baseball and football, mostly for their shared elementary school, St. Rita, as well as Bishop Ireton and St. Mary’s Academy high schools.

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– Sherry Reilly, ALL president

PHOTO/JENI BEIRO

The certificate Jeni Beiro received for participating in Little League in 1974, before the Beiro teams were formed.

BEIRO
FROM | 11

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Jeni made her own mark on the baseball diamond as one of the first, and perhaps the first, girls to play on a boys’ little league team, which she did with Warwick Village in 1973 and 1974. The non-baseball training left an indelible mark on her.

“We had a coach, Mr. Jones, who was retired. He would pick me up and we would drive to Shirlington for practice, but before practice, we would run,” Jeni said. “We used to run over that long bridge that crossed Route 395. And then we’d do sit-ups, but I could always beat the others in sit-ups. But I always ended up with stomach cramps.”

The Beiros were not the only family-based team in town. Eugene Simpson and T.J. Fannon also fielded teams. A natural rivalry developed between the two construction companies. Yet, according to Mary Beiro, the rivalry ended on the diamond.

“They have both been long-time family friends of ours for years,” Mary said.

The league configuration may have had something to do with this. In the olden days, the league was split into three main divisions: (age 9-12), (13-14) and (15-17). Now, according to its website (alexandriallittleleague.org), there are seven divisions serving baseball players from age eight to 16, as well as an accompanying softball league.

A natural rivalry did not develop because sponsors were not sure which league would host their team.

“Usually, you sponsored a team, and the league would decide where to put it,” Mary said. However, by extension, the Beiros hosted most teams as they also sponsored each season’s All-Star games.

AA Beiro stayed active in sports and continued his dedication to Alexandria baseball until his passing in 2008, 11 years after Jean’s death. Alex Jr., himself an avid mountain biker and tennis player, picked up the torch as a main contributor before his death last November at age 64.

Today, the Beiro Family Foundation thrives and will allow for a team to be sponsored in perpetuity. The Foundation is also sponsoring scholarships for St. Rita’s and Blessed Sacrament schools, Bishop Ireton and Alexandria City High Schools and the Alexandria Scholarship Fund.

Reilly stressed ALL’s gratitude for the support the Beiro family has provided through the years.

“The Beiro family’s dedication to our community baseball league has helped so many Alexandria youth develop fellowship, form great friendships, and learn to love the game of baseball,” Reilly said in the statement. “At least two of our current board members played for AA Beiro teams in the eighties!”

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**THE ALL OPENING DAY SCHEDULE**

- 8:30 a.m. – Teams report for ceremonies.
- 9:05 a.m. – Welcome remarks.
- 9:10 a.m. – Team procession by division encircling diamond.
- 9:27 a.m. – National Anthem.
- 9:30 a.m. – Intro to 1st pitch, recognition of years of contributions from the Beiro family to Alexandria Little League. Recognition of all key sponsors.
- 9:35 a.m. – First pitch
- 9:38 a.m. – Reminder of scheduled photo times at George Washington MS throughout the day; teams to assemble in short field for League-wide photo.
- 9:43 a.m. – League-wide photo.
- 9:45 a.m. – Concluding remarks.

The Simpson Fields are located at 426 East Monroe Ave., just off Rt. 1 and the Monroe Street bridge in Alexandria. More information about Alexandria Little League programs can be found at their website, alexandriallittleleague.org

**BEIRO**

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ARCHAEOLOGY CAMP OPEN
Registration is now open for young city archaeologists. Excavate a real archaeological site and preserve Alexandria’s historic resources! Campers, ages 12–15, will learn scientific excavating and artifact processing methods. Cost is $400 with scholarships available.
Time: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Location: 105 N. Union St.
Information: alexandriava.gov/archaeology/alexandria-archaeology-summer-camp

HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY
Woodbine Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center is offering free consultations, explanations and support to individuals wishing to learn about hospice and palliative care.
Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: 2729 King St.
Information: tockify.com/steve.gurney/detail/36/1681394400000

HOMESCHOOL DAY
Homeschoolers are welcome to The Lee-Fendall House Museum for Homeschool Day. The theme will focus on the history of gardens as a source of food, medicine and recreation. Children will learn how herbs were used to treat various ailments as well as flavor food. Activities will take place outdoors.
Tickets required.
Time: 10 a.m. through 2 p.m.
Location: 614 Oronoco St.
Information: eventbrite.com/e/homeschool-day-gardens-tickets-480119980787

AN EVENING OF FRENCH CLASSICAL MUSIC
Sponsored by St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. This concert will feature a live performance from France’s most notable classical composers. Attendees are invited to enjoy an outdoor wine reception following the concert.
Time: 7 to 8 p.m.
Location: 228 S. Pitt St.
Information: shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx

ECO-CITY
Join representatives from city council and ACPS students for an Earth Day proclamation. There will be a tree planting and artists’ showcase. All are welcome to attend.
Time: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Location: 301 King St.
Information: apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=51827

BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD
A walking tour sharing stories of soldiers, citizens and self-liberated African Americans in Civil War Alexandria. Tours take place walk or shine. Tickets required.
Time: 10 a.m.
Location: 614 Oronoco St.
Information: eventbrite.com/e/beyond-the-battlefield-a-civil-war-walking-tour-of-alexandria-tickets-480508492837

WHAT IS JUSTICE?
How do communities address the historic wrongs of slavery, lynchings and segregation in a way that will bring justice, healing and transformation? The Alexandria Community Remembrance Project in partnership with Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center and the African American Redress Network at Howard University is hosting experts on these issues. Free to attend.
Time: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Location: 901 Wythe St.
Information: alexandriava.gov/cultural-history/alexandria-community-remembrance-project-public-programs#UpcomingEvents

A community of support and enrichment for our Alexandria neighbors ages 55+
This week, At Home in Alexandria (AHA) celebrates 12 years of helping to keep our older neighbors safe, confident, and engaged. Practical support like transportation, errands, home organizing, check-in calls, technical support and more. Social engagement with Coffee and Conversation gatherings, casual dinners out, happy hours, discussion groups and so much more. Educational opportunities that can help you navigate aging by staying informed and up-to-date about resources and options.
Learn more about our vibrant AHA community!

www.AtHomeInAlexandria.org | 703.231.0824
aha@AtHomeInAlexandria.org
Partners in business and life share their story

BY KAITLIN MURPHY

With this ring

Old Town boasts history and charm. Tim Shaheen and Meaghan Foran perfectly capture those ideals in their life, work and marriage. The founders of Alx&Co. delight in merging the past into new beginnings through their craft.

Located at 121 South Royal St., the independent jewelry workshop specializes in bespoke pieces like engagement rings, heirloom redesign and jewelry restoration.

It was in this very shop where the couple met for the first time. In 2005, Tim began working for jeweler Lawrence Miller and Co. As he developed as a craftsman, he took over the business in 2007. The workshop had a great foundation, reputation, location and
neighborhood vibe. Meaghan had just moved to Alexandria when a friend and neighbor planned a visit to the store. The real reason behind the pop-in was for Meaghan to meet Tim.

“I didn’t know it was a set-up,” Meaghan said. “I knew,” Tim added.

After getting to know each other at the studio, their relationship grew personally... and professionally. Meaghan shared, “I started working with Tim in 2010. By getting to know his business and clients, I started giving my input on designs and the shop in general. Tim welcomed the added perspective.”

When the time was right to propose, Tim had an entire workshop and breadth of experience at his disposal. He understood how personal a piece of jewelry could be and knew the meaning had to be clear and present. Having worked with clients on their custom designs, Tim knew he had to make a piece that would honor Meaghan’s style and personality.

He decided on a simple gold engagement band with a small stone in the center. He wanted to propose with a ring she would enjoy, celebrate and wear. This philosophy is foundational to their business. They believe creating or selecting an engagement ring should reflect the person.

“If you don’t see yourself wearing the piece, don’t make it. Make sure it is important and meaningful to you and that you enjoy it,” Meaghan shared.

In Meaghan’s case, her engagement ring perfectly captured and suited her. And so the couple began planning their wedding.

They arranged for a ceremony and celebration in Charlottesville. When Meaghan saw a tiara that she liked and wanted to wear on their wedding day, Tim told her, “Don’t buy it. I can make it for you.”

He returned to the workshop once again for his bride. Tim created a stunning sterling silver- and gold-plated tiara surrounded with handmade flowers and leaves. It was in the
workshop that the couple also fashioned their wedding bands. Their planning culminated in a celebration with a gathering of family and friends in a place special to their family.

“Tim’s aunt and uncle own a family property with a stretch of land that we always hike as a family on the holidays. We were married at the top of what we call ‘Mount Ralph.’ Tim’s mom grew up in Charlottesville so it was very special to have our wedding somewhere so meaningful to us,” Meaghan said.

Meaghan shared, “Our wedding was very special for its location and for the joy that our guests brought to celebrate the occasion. In the end, it was a very simple set up but being outside in the Virginia countryside on a gorgeous late-spring evening with people who really just wanted to celebrate and have fun really made it exceptional.”

Meaghan shared, “Our wedding was very special for its location and for the joy that our guests brought to celebrate the occasion. In the end, it was a very simple set up but being outside in the Virginia countryside on a gorgeous late-spring evening with people who really just wanted to celebrate and have fun really made it exceptional.”

Meaghan and Tim believe wedding planning is good for any couple.

“It creates the space to be thoughtful and begins the process of working on something together. Weddings can be stressful and expensive but are more than a party. They establish a narrative that conveys your relationship,” Meaghan said.

Their wedding planning also served as a foray into an even stronger working relationship. Meaghan joined Tim in a larger professional capacity. She began running the business and marketing side of Alx&Co. which allowed Tim time to focus on the vision of the workshop and his craft.

Design is an intense process and the creative partnership of the couple and their growing business highlighted their innovative and adaptive qualities. Rebranding felt like an important step in their new chapter of their business and personal life.

They settled on Alexandria & Company in January 2018. Their shop is known as Alx&Co. The name encompasses all facets of Meaghan and Tim’s life. Alexandria is the location where they met, where they live and where they work. Old Town represents a lifestyle that is a fundamental part of their story.

It was very special to have our wedding somewhere so meaningful to us.”

– Meaghan Foran, co-founder of Alx&Co.
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“It was a way to reframe the business away from what Tim and his old business partner Lawrence were known for, which was sterling silver restoration, and towards what Tim and I really wanted to focus on moving forward, which was custom jewelry design,” Meaghan said.

Understanding their clients’ history and personal narratives is an important aspect of their partnership and collaboration on design. When a client wants to design an engagement ring, there is a lot of effort to understand the personality of the recipient of the ring.

Tim helps his clients transform their narratives into special pieces. And through computer aided design, or CAD, they can see their idea come to life, make edits or tweaks to the design and end with their desired results. Finally, the piece becomes a part of the couple’s story.

Heirloom redesign is a particular favorite experience for Tim. He said it is challenging because each piece is unique, has its own history and comes with a new set of design parameters. When these valuable family pieces come in, Tim and Meaghan help by assisting the customer in writing a new chapter of the jewelry itself.

During the time it takes for a piece of jewelry to be designed and created, the customer is in the driver’s seat, helping lead to a beautiful and exciting result. Meaghan and Tim are the guides to the experience and their own relationship and history serve as a guide to the process.

They supply the expertise, recommend options, educate the customer on the materials and research gemstones that might enhance the piece. Since Alx&Co. is a small business, Meaghan and Tim are a part of the design relationship from start to finish.

As their family grew – they have one child and a dog – they needed additional support to continue the growth of their business. The couple structured their store’s hours and created a business plan that has helped them create that aspirational work-life balance so many people strive to attain.

Over the years, they moved their showroom and offices to the second floor and opened another venture in the original storefront space. The Seedling Collective, a full-time popup shop space, has allowed other creatives in Old Town to launch their ideas and test the waters. Although the pandemic put a pause on retail for a while, this space has proven to be a tangible example of how adaptability is key to a growing and thriving business. And marriage.

The quintessential Old Town mom-and-pop jewelry workshop took a solid foundation and enhanced the story. They did the same for their own story. And they continue to help clients tell their stories, too.

“Tying the Knot

PHOTO/SARA SHARAF-ELDEIN
Tim Shaheen and Meaghan Foran are the founders and owners of Alx&Co.

ALX&CO.

Tying the Knot

PHOTO/KAITLIN MURPHY

PHOTO/KAITLIN MURPHY

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Wearable florals

A floral artist on designs to don on your wedding day
BY LESLIE GOLDEN

Flowers have always featured prominently at the altar, as reception table centerpieces and as bouquets for the bride. Now flowers are being worn to engagement parties, rehearsal dinners and by the wedding party in way of jewelry, hairpieces and more.

Erin Lepore, owner and founder of floral design boutique Fleur & Feathers, turns flowers into formal accessories. Her designs can be worn as jewelry, as a headpiece or even as a temporary tattoo.

“I first began making flower crowns for friends on their birthdays. My friend Maura Burchette, who owns children’s boutique Monday’s Child, asked if I could produce some little floral crowns for clients who were buying first communion dresses for their daughters. Then I had another friend ask me to create a crown for her to wear to her rehearsal dinner. It sort of got the ball rolling,” Lepore said.

By incorporating natural elements like moss, branches and greenery with flowers, Lepore brings an ethereal quality to her designs. Corsages typically fashioned with ribbon are now attached to gold bracelets. Earrings can be dangling dahlia. A barrette is adorned with blush rosebuds.

“Floral hair pieces are nice for a flower girl. Bridesmaids and mothers of the bride and groom can mix it up with bracelets, necklaces or hairpieces,” Lepore suggested.

With a passion for design, color and textures, Lepore believes in merging flowers and fashion to elevate your look and spirit.

“I actually plant a lot in my yard. And I’m able to source the florals depending on the season. And then there are color schemes. I used purple anemones in a design and it was beautiful. In the fall, dahlias are always popular,” Lepore added.

Lepore has recently been making necklaces that match the bride’s bouquet to be worn...
at the reception.

“Brides love a floral neck-lace for the reception so that they don’t have to carry around their bouquet after the ceremony. I use the same flowers that are featured in their bouquets. It’s a special way to transition from the ceremony to the reception while still incorporating your floral scheme,” Lepore said.

And flowers have grown to cocktail adornments.

“I coordinated with caterer Charlene Dantzler-Henry of Charlene’s Kitchen to come up with a way to incorporate florals into the cocktail hour. We decided to do little stirrers that you can add to a drink. There really are lots of opportunities to work with caterers or event planners to find ways to bring flowers into the event in new and different ways. You can create the unexpected,” Lepore shared.

There is an array of custom pieces that can make the entire wedding season bloom.

Lepore mused, “I love the idea of treating yourself to flowers. You feel good when you’re wearing flowers. And it feels nice to treat others. When a bride picks these creations out for their bridesmaid, I think that is just a little way of bringing happiness and goodness into the world.”

-lgolden@alextimes.com

Fresh florals become wearable art as hair combs.

An inspired floral bracelet.

Lepore’s daughter Somee models a custom floral crown.

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Photo/Winnie Lee
History rises on the waterfront

Sen. John Warner Maritime Heritage Center and port of Providence take shape
BY PATRICK BURCHETTE

When the former secretary of the navy and second longest serving senator in Virginia’s history was on the cusp of retirement in January 2009, he privately objected after being notified of the navy’s decision to name the 12th Virginia-class nuclear submarine, SSN-785, in his honor. His protests fell on deaf ears.

What may be surprising was the late Warner’s near universal opposition and contempt for anything bearing his name, including a new $2 billion submarine. It is rumored that he even turned down the renaming of the newly refurbished Wilson Bridge in his honor.

The naming was not unexpected given Warner’s record of public service over seven decades: enlisting in the United States Navy at 17 during World War II, joining the United States Marine Corps during the Korean War, serving as secretary of the navy, heading the American Revolution Bicentennial Celebration, followed by his 30 years of service as senator for the Commonwealth. His time in the senate was marked by his leadership as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and landmark public works legislation.

What may be surprising was the late Warner’s near universal opposition and contempt for anything bearing his name, including a new $2 billion submarine. It is rumored that he even turned down the renaming of the newly refurbished Wilson Bridge in his honor.

Fast forward a decade, in the twilight of his years, Warner not only agreed to lend his name to a project dear to his roots, but actively participated in its planning and design. The Senator John Warner Maritime Heritage Center, home port of Tall Ship Providence will be permanently installed at 1A Prince St.

“The senator had lots of great ideas and input,” Clair Sassin, president and CEO of the Tall Ship Providence Foundation of Alexandria, said. “He never missed an opportunity to encourage young people to enter public service, and he viewed Providence, and the center, as an active way to educate and attract young people to maritime history and the difference we can all make through public service.”

The new center will begin to take shape next month and will serve as the launching point of Providence, a replica of the ship that played a significant role in American history.

The first ship authorized by the Continental Congress for the Continental Navy during the American Revolution, Providence was the first American command of John Paul Jones, arguably the father of the U.S. Navy. In addition to seizing 40 British ships during its four years of service, Providence holds the distinction of being the first American ship to fire on a British vessel, the first American ship to bring Marines to foreign soil and the first ship to leave the Stars and Stripes on foreign soil.

The original Providence was the last ship to be scuttled after participating in the Penobscot Expedition in 1779 to clear British troops. Rather than be captured by the British, the fleet was sunk.

The reproduction of this 110-foot, 12-gun sloop-of-war, Providence was constructed in 1976 for the Nation’s Bicentennial celebration. After its movie debut in “Pirates of the Caribbean,” it was purchased and restored by the non-profit foundation. The foundation boasts eight former secretaries of the navy on an advisory committee, and to date has raised $8.5 million, which includes $1 million from Huntington Ingalls Industries, Inc. for the center’s 4th grade education program.

In addition to being the home port for the ship, the purpose of the center is to serve as a floating classroom to educate guests on the history of Providence and the role the Continental Navy played in the American Revolution. It will also provide a signature attraction on the historic waterfront.

The main offering of this floating structure is tours, which will begin in the Education Center. Guests will be transported back in time
through an interactive colonial maritime experience. Visitors will board the ship to experience first-hand what life was like aboard an 18th century tall ship, “meet” Captain John Paul Jones and visit the captain’s cabin, quarterdeck, the main deck and the hold.

There will be a rotating exhibit of naval artifacts, including a gift shop and Naval History Theater featuring the film, “Providence, Dawn of the U.S. Navy.” In keeping with the tradition of historic preservation, the two small structures have cedar siding and roof pitches which are historically accurate for the period. Because education is a centerpiece, the center will offer additional programs for schools and scouts including navigation, mechanical advantage and knot tying. The foundation is partnering with a number of local organizations, including George Washington’s Mount Vernon.

“The Senator John Warner Maritime Heritage Center is all about history and when you experience Providence something special happens. A seed is planted in children and they ask questions, which helps develop an interest in learning more about American history. We know the more kids learn and have fun learning, the more they want to learn. The same is true for adults,” Sassin said.

For those looking to go out on the water, Providence will have weekly sails on the Potomac, including on Friday evenings with offerings of specialty beer and wine. The ship will also be available for private charters and birthday parties. The center will be outfitted with lighting and is capable of being tented and rented out for private events of up to 120 guests on the observation deck with unobstructed views of the Capitol.

“We know tall ships bring additional visitors and revenue to the city,” Scott Shaw, board chair of Tall Ship Providence Foundation, said. “Whenever a tall ship visits, hotel occupancy, retail and restaurant sales go up.”

If all goes as planned, the center will officially open in late June or early July. Currently under construction in a Baltimore shipyard, it will soon be making the voyage to its permanent home on the Old Town waterfront.

The writer is a board member of the Tall Ship Providence Foundation and former aide to Sen. John Warner.
Spring salad with lemon shallot vinaigrette

Move aside bagged lettuce and bottled salad dressing
BY KRISTEN COFFIELD

Ditch boring bagged salads in favor of delicate spring greens!

It’s a fact that eating more plants is the key to improved health, longevity and a healthier planet.

It might seem like a shortcut to buy that bag of spring mix or romaine, but pre-made salads have a certain yucky tang. We eat them, but we don’t love them. There is a running joke about buying a bag of spring mix so you can toss it at the end of the week.

Every time we eat, we choose to support or diminish the healing capabilities of our bodies. What we eat and drink profoundly impacts our health, happiness and productivity. Healing our bodies with nutritious food also helps to calm our busy brains. As humans, we are an ecosystem. When we honor our bodies with the things they need to thrive, we are rewarded by looking good, feeling great and creating future wellness. Because what we eat and drink today shows up as tomorrow’s health.

Make way for salad that nourishes the body, delights the palate and is addictively delicious.

The writer is the founder and owner of The Culinary Cure and is an author, educator and culinary disruptor. She is a regular contributor on Good Morning Washington, ABC7 and Fox5.

DIY Salad Mix

Ingredients
• 1 head Boston or bibb lettuce
• 1 head red leaf or butter lettuce
• 1 head radicchio
• Salad spinner

Directions
1. Remove the outer leaves of lettuces and radicchio.
2. Fill the sink with cold water.
3. Slice romaine crossways into bite-size pieces. Cut radicchio in quarters, remove the white core, and slice into bite-sized pieces. Tear butter or leaf lettuce into bite-sized pieces and place all the lettuce into the sink with cold water.
4. After the lettuce soaks for a few minutes, drain the sink and spin the salad dry.
5. Store salad in ziplock (I use reusable silicone ones) bags with the air gently pressed out.

The salad mix keeps for a week in an air-tight bag.

Deliciously addictive lemon shallot vinaigrette

Ingredients
• 1/2 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice – a good lemon juicer makes it simple
• 2/3 cup best-quality olive oil – preferably first press extra-virgin
• 1 tablespoon minced shallot
• 1 teaspoon kosher salt
• ¼ to 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

Directions
Place all ingredients in a shaker bottle or mason jar and shake vigorously. Let rest for 10 minutes or longer before dressing the salad.
Spring remodeling season surges forward with flooring solutions

BY FAMILY FEATURES

If the idea of a spring remodel brings equal parts intrigue and dread, starting with flooring can make the process more appealing. Sustainable, resilient flooring comes in a variety of options for both budget and personal style.

Increasingly popular in homes across the country, resilient flooring options ranging from durable materials like rubber, linoleum, cork and luxury vinyl tile are designed to stand up to the rigors of everyday life.

Consider these five home flooring trends to help create a tailored space at home.

Classic hardwood with a resilient twist

Ideal for kitchens, dining rooms, hallways and offices, hardwood creates a timeless foundation for your home with the ability to evolve with your tastes. When you go the resilient flooring route, you'll find design options for everything from dramatic walnut to stately mahogany. Luxury vinyl tile and plank are modular which makes installation a little easier.

Modern stone-look sustainable flooring

When it comes to resilient home flooring, stone style designs don’t just look sturdy, they’re durable, too. Slate-in

Five resilient flooring trends

SEE FLOORING

PHOTO/BEAUTIFULLY RESPONSIBLE

Stone-look resilient flooring gives your floors a stronger ability to adapt.

HOME OF THE WEEK

Upgraded historic gem for easy entertaining

This historic 4-story townhouse with 3 bedrooms, 2 full and 2 half baths, was built in 1852. Over the years it has been lovingly expanded with recent renovations totaling more than $200,000.

The property was occupied by the Union Army during the Civil War. It served as headquarters for the 8th Illinois Cavalry and was also home to Major John Beveridge who fought at Gettysburg. Dr. Brigadier General William Hammond, who served as surgeon general of the Army, later occupied the home. A brass plaque detailing the home’s history has been installed on the front exterior.

Enter from a quiet tree-lined street through a vestibule, to a double parlor with formal living and dining rooms.

A sun-filled family room with high ceilings and skylights opens to a balcony with access to a patio below.

The primary bedroom features original hardwoods, custom built-in dressers and a wood burning fireplace. The second bedroom has original hardwoods and an ornamental fireplace. A daybed and reading nook can be found in the third bedroom. A new full bath with marble flooring was custom made for this historic space.

A galley kitchen offers updated appliances and modern technology throughout with quartz countertops and custom cabinetry. A wine rack and pantry add ample storage. A half bath with a laundry closet and utility room can be found on this level.

This historic gem is located five blocks from the Potomac River with restaurants, boutiques and grocery stores all within easy walking distance.

HOMES ADVERTORIAL

SEE FLOORING

PHOTOS/WELSH INTERIORS

Left: A 4-story historic gem located in the SE quadrant of Old Town. Middle Left: A brass plaque and gas lantern. Middle Right: Original outer doors in the foyer leads into the living room with floor to ceiling windows, built-ins and an original wood fireplace with mantel. Right: Original curved stairway leading upstairs.

AT A GLANCE

Address: 204 S. Pitt St., Alexandria, 22314
Neighborhood: Old Town
Price: $1,565,000
Square feet: 2,239
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2 full, 2 half
Year built: 1852
Contact: Barbara Cousens bcousens@mcenearney.com 703-966-4180
spired tiles can add effortless class and character to high-traffic rooms such as dining rooms and mudrooms. Stone-look resilient flooring gives your floors a stronger ability to adapt. Rooms like kitchens and bathrooms, which often see fluctuations in temperature and moisture, are a great place for this flooring style. Rigid-core flooring is one of the fastest growing categories of resilient flooring due to its comfort, durability and ability to resist water.

Large format tiles
Functional rooms like the kitchen are often the heart of the home. Kitchens also receive a lot of dirt, moisture and accidental spills. Ideal for homes with small children and pets, resilient home flooring installations are resistant to scratches and stains. Without the need for harsh chemicals, they are easy to clean and there’s no grout to maintain. Many resilient flooring options are available in water-resistant or waterproof varieties.

Statement designs
Statement piece ties together the perfect outfit. A statement floor can make an impressive focal point in the kitchen, bathroom, basement, laundry room or mudroom. There are endless tile possibilities that can appeal to homeowners with different tastes and preferences. Resilient flooring types like luxury vinyl tile and sheet vinyl are also available with textured surfaces to make an additional statement.

Cozy spaces
If you’ve found a perfect statement rug, resilient flooring can create an ideal foundation underneath family rooms, bedrooms, hallways or basements. Resilient floors are built to provide comfort underfoot, absorb sound and make spaces accessible for all levels of mobility.

Are our ultimate pursuits whether you are considering an outdoor oasis, a food lover’s kitchen, or an owner’s suite. Because home is more important than ever.

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Celebrate women's voices and experiences on April 29

Alexandria Celebrates Women

Poet Laureate brings the world to town

BY GAYLE CONVERSE

This month, Alexandria’s popular Poet Laureate Zeina Azzam is busier than ever.

That’s because April is National Poetry Month. The largest literary celebration in the nation has occurred each April since the Academy of American Poets launched the recognition in 1996.

Azzam’s calendar is filled to the brim. The Palestinian American poet, writer, editor and community activist will participate in Fairfax County Poet Laureate Danielle Badra’s inaugural Poetry in the Parks on April 15. She will be the featured poet at the Eastern Shore Writers’ Association Coffee & Poets event on April 16.

Later in the month, she will speak at the Alexandria City Public Schools Poetry Awards ceremony on April 26. And is the steward for the Poem In Your Pocket Day at the Athenaeum on April 27. Finally, on April 29, Azzam will serve as a panelist for the Poetry Society of Virginia’s Northern Region Poets in the World on April 29.

The themes that Azzam’s poetry addresses include war and displacement, refugee and immigrant experiences, the elusive distance between home and exile, the feeling of being in-between cultures, languages and identities, explorations inspired by nature and interpersonal relationships and encounters with different kinds of loss.

Azzam, who was selected last year as the city’s poet laureate, believes in recognizing the integral role poetry plays in history and culture.

“Celebrating women through reading and writing poetry is very important and meaningful, and I am honored to play a role in shining a light on women’s voices and experiences in our city,” Azzam said.

Women poets and storytellers on the North American continent date back thousands of years, as evidenced by the oral and written literatures of indigenous peoples.

English poems arrived on our shores in 1650, when Anne Dudley Bradstreet became the first published American poet and the first Englishwoman to publish a collection of poems. In her book “The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America,” Bradstreet conveyed her feelings concerning religion and her family.

Born Anne Dudley in 1612 in England, she married Simon Bradstreet when she was 16. The family emigrated to the Colonies and the couple became parents of eight children. Her husband and her father would become governors of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

According to the New England Historical Society, Bradstreet’s brother-in-law took her poems to England to be published in 1650. Because no women authors had previously appeared in print, the book’s cover does not display Anne Bradstreet’s name. Instead, the book’s author was credited only as written “By a Gentlewoman in those parts.”

Born in Africa, Phillis Wheatley was captured and sold into slavery to a Boston family in 1761. After being taught to read and write, Wheatley began penning poetry at age 14. In 1773, she became the first African American and second American woman to publish a book of poems.

“Focus on poetry by women of color in the United States has enriched the fabric of the country deeply,” Azzam said. “And more than ever, translations of poetry by women from around the globe abound. In Virginia and throughout the United States, we are able to read poetry and appreciate the voices of both immigrant women poets and international writers whose translations to English have augmented our literary palette.”

The Commonwealth of Virginia has appointed a poet laureate of Virginia and the United States. Virginia’s most recent Poet Laureate, Luisa Ignacia, completed her two-year term on June 30, 2022.

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden appointed Californian Ada Limón as U.S. Poet Laureate on July 12, 2022. She became the 24th Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress.

Things won’t slow down next month for Alexandria’s poet laureate. On May 6, Azzam’s poetry will blend with music when the Alexandria Choral Society presents the world premiere of “You Birth the Seeds” by Australian-American composer Melissa Dunphy with words by the poet added to the production.

The Other Side of Change concert will feature a diverse set of women composers from all over the world. Azzam will also recite poetry focused on women at the Alexandria Celebrates Women Mother’s Day Tea set for May 14.

Women writers across the planet continue to create, unite and multitask in their struggle for equal recognition and opportunity. Wordsmiths like Alexandria’s Zeina Azzam are leading the way.

The writer, along with Pat Miller, is founder of Alexandria Celebrates Women, a nonprofit that highlights influential women throughout the city’s history. Contact them at AlexandriaCelebratesWomen@gmail.com

PHOTO/LENA SEIKALY
Weekly Words

STATION IDENTIFICATION by Wendy L. Brandes and Hoang-Kim Vu, edited by Jeff Chen

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6 Foundation (59)
11 Piece of racewear (60)
14 Tired (61)
19 Reply to "Am not!" (62)
20 Pass into law (63)
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22 New England's busiest airport (65)
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28 Org. that oversees trials (69)
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38 Skier's fancy lodging (74)
39 Noodles served with kakejiru broth (75)
40 Omen (76)
41 Rhineland refusal (77)
43 Artist only missing a Tony for an EGOT (78)
44 Substation? (79)
45 Comes up (80)
46 "Take a ____ on Me" (81)
48 GCHQ equivalent in the U.S. (82)
49 Like some wine barrels (83)
52 Team leader's strap (84)
53 Sword handle (85)
54 Chose (86)
56 Rudimentary (87)

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5 Course component (92)
6 Pintos, e.g. (93)
7 Taylor-Joy of "The Menu" (94)
8 "The way of the gods" (95)
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10 "The House of the Spirits" (97)
11 Prefix with "fiber" (98)
12 "___ in Venice" (99)
13 Pharyngitis cause, familiarly (100)
14 "Abbott Elementary" teacher Gregory (101)
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16 "Nope" (103)
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18 Evidence of an allergy, perhaps (105)
24 Evidence of an allergy, perhaps (106)
25 Chime in (107)
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51 Bupkis, to Beckham (132)
52 Team leader's strap (133)
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54 Chose (135)
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Solutions from last week

ACROSS
1 Robert “Bob” Corgan (86), of Alexandria, April 8, 2023
6 Michael Curriden (76), of Alexandria, March 29, 2023
11 Ruth Deck (92), of Alexandria, March 27, 2023
17 Ray Hamilton Morrison, Jr. (88), formerly of Alexandria, April 1, 2023
23 Joseph Nousair (55), of Alexandria, April 7, 2023
29 Helen Schrott (94), of Alexandria, April 5, 2023
35 Richard "Rusty" Shaw (67), of Alexandria, March 23, 2023
41 Helen Wrenn (95), of Alexandria, April 8, 2023
Our View
Doers in Alexandria

How cool is it to have a Bond in our midst? And not just a movie character, but a real person who’s led a life of adventure and service for England and the United States, with exploits throughout the world.

In case you missed it, Ethan Bond’s remarkable life is profiled in our page one story, “Bond, Ethan Bond” in this week’s Times. Bond’s life of service continues with his upcoming deployment to Ukraine to help set up medical services and field hospitals in that war-ravaged country.

Another doer is Michelle Ruiz, the contributing writer who penned the Bond feature for the Times. Ruiz is a doer in her own right, who writes for publications ranging from the New York Times to Vogue, and whose story on Giselle Bündchen – the first since the supermodel’s divorce from football GOAT Tom Brady – graces the cover of April’s Vanity Fair.

The Beiro family is also a clan of doers. In addition to running Beiro Construction, Andy Beiro, his wife Jean and many of their nine children have helped form and run the Beiro Family Foundation, which has funded charitable endeavors in Alexandria since the late 1990s – though the family’s support of the Alexandria Little League predates the foundation’s formation by more than two decades.

There have been many other longtime supporters of ALL, from Eugene Simpson to T.J. Fannon to Christine Garner. So while the Beiros are rightly being honored for their years of supporting youth sports in Alexandria, we salute everyone who currently or previously has sponsored youth sports in Alexandria.

And of course, since it’s April, it’s appropriate to look ahead to Alexandria’s biggest single day of giving, Spring2ACTion, sponsored each year by ACT for Alexandria. Next week, the Alexandria Times will be running a special section featuring nonprofits who participate in Spring2ACTion, which will be held this year on April 26.

This year will be the 13th year of Spring2ACTion, during which more than $18 million has been raised to support nonprofits in Alexandria. Since last year generated $2.6 million in donations to 172 different nonprofits; this year the cumulative total should rise to well past $20 million.

It’s important to remember that nonprofit organizations incur expenses throughout the year, and most rely largely on donations to pay their bills. Many people focus their charitable giving at the end of each year. But April is the perfect time to give your favorite nonprofit a boost.

If you’ve never participated in Spring2ACTion, this is your chance to join Alexandria’s collection of doers. Perhaps Ethan Bond is the only Alexandrian who can set up field hospitals in Ukraine. But the rest of us can join the Beiros in giving back right here.

Opinion

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

Photo of the Week

A photo commentary on zoning in Alexandria. Both photos were taken from one spot on Mt. Vernon Avenue of properties on facing street corners.

Your Views

A poisoned tree or a biased outlook?

To the editor:

This past week at a symposium on housing in Alexandria, Mayor Justin Wilson characterized the city’s zoning codes as “a poisoned tree.” That reminded me that in the late 1990s I was appointed as a member of a citizen task force to review those same codes. They had been challenged on the grounds of fairness by landowners.

For me that fairness term included most particularly finding any racial bias that might be embedded in the codes. It was an era when red-lining by real estate interests to exclude Blacks from certain neighborhoods had been uncovered in many cities. Our group was headed by Bill Hurd, then the chair of the Alexandria Planning Commission. Over several months our task force examined the zoning code meticulously.

In the end we found no racial bias or other substantive instances of unfairness to any group of Alexandria residents in the ordinances themselves. The task force recommended only tweaks to the codes, in the form of two or three minor amendments.

Unfortunately, the task force report has gone missing. My request to the Office of Planning and Zoning recently brought back the response that while the existence of the task force is acknowledged, our report cannot be found archived anywhere in city files. My own copy long since has been lost. I am hopeful that renewed efforts will find the report somewhere.

In the meantime, Wilson is alleging that this same code is a “poisoned tree” bearing “poisoned fruit” but he does not, and perhaps cannot, point out specific offending ordinances. It is just a blanket condemnation.

Alexandria homeowners need proof not just invective.

-Jack Sullivan, Alexandria
My View | Denise Dunbar

Build it way up

A conversation between two fictional city employees circa 2040

BY DENISE DUNBAR

City Employee #1: We’ve got to find a way to add more multi-family housing in Alexandria.

City Employee #2: Are you kidding me? We’ve spent the last 25 years building and rebuilding on every possible site. There’s no more space.

CE1: That’s what you said back in 2030 – but we got those nice six-story, multi-use complexes built where the Old Town Safeway and the Departmental Progressive Club used to be.

CE2: Yes but what a battle that was. It made national news when we had the police drag away those octogenarians who had chained themselves to the front railing. They made a really big deal about that man who had a stroke.

CE1: He had high blood pressure to begin with. Besides, that was bad planning on our part. We should have done a stealth teardown in the middle of the night when no one was looking. Remember how effective that approach was when we cut down the Witness Tree at the old T.C. Williams High School?

CE2: That was before my time.

CE1: Well, it wasn’t before mine, and I’ve learned a thing or two along the way.

CE2: Uh oh, like what?

CE1: Density is our destiny. We can’t ever forget that. It’s why we pushed through those 70-foot apartment buildings up and down Mt. Vernon Avenue. I think Pat Miller Square is nicer in full shade.

DENISE DUNBAR

CE2: But haven’t we already accomplished our density goals? The city’s population is now 235,000 in 15 square miles. There’s only three cities in the country, and none in Virginia, that are denser than Alexandria. And we blew past the Council of Governments recommendations for housing growth years ago.

CE1: More is better. Especially now that we’ve banned individually owned cars and SUVs. Heh, heh, we left them with no choice but to use buses – and scooters – to get around town.

CE2: Ha, I personally think you’re a little old for scooter riding.

CE1: Oh, I’ve never ridden a scooter. I drive my city-issued car.

CE2: Well, that seems a bit unfair.

CE1: It’s perfectly legal since it’s not individually owned.

CE2: So where are we going to build next?

CE1: The cemeteries! There’s dozens of acres without a single building on them. All of that land is wasted on the dead. We need to house the living.

CE2: That’s a step too far, even for you. There’s no way the people, and the faith communities, in this city will let us build over the cemeteries.

CE1: There’s always a way. We control the zoning levers. Besides, they’re already multi-family.

The above column is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to any person, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

The writer is publisher and executive editor of the Alexandria Times.

Do you have something to say to other Alexandrians? Send your letters and comments to letters@alextimes.com. The Times reserves the right to reject any letter for any reason. We do not print personal attacks. All letters are subject to staff editing.
Parents need to earn trust

To the editor:
I wish to respond to an issue Lindsay Hutter tucked into her letter in the March 16 Alexandria Times about National Merit honors as an example of a supposed “woke agenda” in the public schools. The specific issue is her complaint about teachers not telling parents when they learn a student considers themselves to be transgendered.

I partially agree with her concern. It is truly sad that a teenager would have more trust in a schoolteacher than in their own parents. However, the solution surely isn’t to demand that teachers violate that trust, but rather for parents to have already earned it.

It seems to me that parents who are the “last to learn” such information about their child are probably the type of parents the child has good reason to distrust.

Tom Osborne, Alexandria

Leveraging city contracts

To the editor:
The Times’ recent article “City pulls minority business program” outlines a well-intended and greatly needed program to support local small businesses which have been overly impacted by COVID-19.

I appreciate City Council and staff actively working to find ways to support minority-owned small businesses outside of this program. The need could not be more real. According to the Small Business Administration, earnings by Black-owned businesses have dropped by 11% during COVID-19. Asian-owned businesses experienced the largest impact: a 15% reduction; Latinx-owned businesses saw a 7% earnings loss.

One step that Alexandria could take would be establishing contracting preferences, like those used by the federal and state government, to support minority and women-owned businesses. While these programs are not perfect, there are significant advantages to being an 8a, socio-economic disadvantaged, or 8m, women-owned, certified business – including mentorships, contract set asides and “bonus points” when bidding for contracts. The Small or Women-owned or Minority-owned business classifications is used by the state of Virginia, which also carries set asides and preferences for state business.

While city staff participate in SWaM events and programs, there are no outlined contracting preferences for minority or woman-owned businesses. Such preferences are allowed by the Code of Virginia, if the public body establishes a data-driven plan in writing. The code also allows for a preference for local businesses if a city uses competitive sealed bidding. I hope that our delegation to the General Assembly will work to expand this local preference provision beyond a specific bidding mechanism but establish a localized preference is good policy.

In addition to creating a system that advantages businesses that are otherwise disadvantaged, Alexandria can also improve its contracting system by aligning it with the bidding system used by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Electronic Virginia was established as the state’s electronic procurement system. eVA is used by all state agencies as well as numerous counties, cities and universities. It’s a one-stop shop for companies interested in doing business with Virginia or most public entities within the Commonwealth.

Unlike many other cities, Alexandria uses another system called Vendor Self-Service. Having a different system forces a local business to develop two profiles and monitor two different platforms. As a small business owner, I know that finding new leads or bidding opportunities is always a challenge. Centralizing public contract bidding opportunities on a singular site, like eVA, would save entrepreneurs valuable time.

As Alexandria looks for new ways to support our local small businesses, especially those owned by disadvantaged entrepreneurs, leveraging city contracts should be a part of any plan. Let’s use a local woman-owned restaurant for the snacks at city events, a Black-owned transit consultant for future DASH realignment and a Latinx-owned branding and design firm for new collateral.

Personally, I would love to see my local tax dollars used to support local businesses in undertaking or supporting city projects instead of those dollars flowing to consultants based in Philadelphia, Los Angeles or Houston.

James Lewis, Alexandria

Inflation offsets tax increases

To the editor:
I read your “Our View” editorial entitled “Something’s Wrong Here” and, initially, was concerned that property taxes were out of control. However, after I thought about the issue for a while I realized the numbers you used in the editorial are largely meaningless, because you don’t account for inflation in your calculations.

In other words, the only meaningful comparison is to use constant dollars so that you compare equivalent values. Using the simple “CPI calculator” at the Bureau of Labor Statistic website (bls.gov) 81.5 cents in July 2006 (the beginning of FY 2007) now has the same value as $1.20 in February 2023. Therefore, it is wrong to assert that taxes have increased 76% in that period because you are not comparing constant dollar values. In fact, it might be possible to argue that in constant dollars, the tax rate had dropped over that period.

Similarly, the average assessed valuation of $527,000 in July 2006 would be $779,079 in February 2023 using the same calculation. I will leave it to the economists to determine if the actual increases in property tax rates exceed inflation over this period, but what is clear is that the percentage increase, if any, has been less than the 76% you editorial claims. I would also assume that for many property taxpayers, their incomes have increased since 2006 as well. The most vulnerable are those on fixed incomes.

Failing to consider or address these issues makes your editorial misleading and incomplete. You can do better.

Donald Griffin, Alexandria

Over taxation is complex

To the editor:

Something is surely wrong here when it comes to Alexandria’s city hall’s doings, but over-taxation is more complex than even your editorial of March 23, “Something’s wrong here,” reveals. The average tax bill might have increased 76% since 2007, but inflation has increased by approximately 41% and wages and salaries by 48%.

Because housing costs at the peak of the bubble were so high, when City Council cut the tax rate by 10 cents the average tax bill still increased by more than 6%! The real gauge of an out-of-control city hall is the comparison between the 76% inflation in actual tax bills and overall price inflation and wage increases, each in the 40-49% range, leaving Alexandria’s true tax rate inflation at close to 30%.

It’s hard to tell what we’re getting for that 30% which we didn’t already have in 2007 other than maybe free DASH buses.

Rural prices are lower because resources such as food and building materials are closer by and rent and land costs are cheaper because fewer folks want to live there. Not only are rural places not growing as fast as urban ones, but many of them are having trouble holding onto their younger folks, especially the college-educated, because of a dearth of opportunities.

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Alexandria’s Times

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OUT OF THE ATTIC

Play a role in preserving Alexandria’s history

What started as National Preservation Week in 1973 was expanded in 2005. That year, the National Trust expanded the celebration from a week to the entire month of May to allow for a fuller exploration of buildings and spaces of historical significance to a larger American history. But you don’t need to wait until May to learn how individual homeowners can preserve their part of Alexandria’s history.

Long before the designation of National Preservation Week, historic preservation has been a priority in Alexandria. Alexandria has the third-oldest designated district in the nation, behind only Charleston and New Orleans. The city designated its Old and Historic District in 1946.

In 1984, Historically African American Uptown was designated as the Parker Gray Historic District. The Alexandria Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission and co-sponsored by the Old Town Civic Association and the Historic Alexandria Foundation.

The panel includes: Anwyn Milnes, appraiser supervisor, Office of Real Estate Assessment, City of Alexandria; Mark Allen, real estate attorney; Mickey Campagna, real estate appraiser; Danny Smith, interior/exterior easement holder; Frederick Lowther, exterior garden easement holder and Moderator: Susan Horne, chairperson of AHRPC

The interior of the Lord Fairfax House, which has an historic easement.

DRUDI FROM 32
And that is the crux of the problem. The younger folks coming to places like Alexandria are determinedly voting for these tax-increasing politicians, even after all the downsides of city hall’s current direction are pointed out, rather than heeding your editorials, numerous letters to the editor, warnings from civic organizations or even pleas from former Mayors Allison Silberberg and the late Patsy Ticer to respect Alexandria’s historic character.

-Dino Drudi, Alexandria

Weekly Poll

Last Week
Are you concerned about Amazon’s decision to pause construction of its second HQ2 building at National Landing?

41% No, we will still reap significant benefits from Amazon.
37% Yes, this could really harm Alexandria’s economy.
15% I’m not sure.
8% What’s National Landing?

This Week
This week is opening day for Alexandria Little League. Has your family participated in baseball or other spring sports?

A) My child currently plays Little League.
B) My child used to play Little League.
C) My child currently or previously played a different spring sport.
D) I don’t like sports.

Take the poll at alextimes.com
Classifieds

LEGAL NOTICE
At a Surrogate’s Court of the State of New York held in and for the County of Fulton at Johnstown, NY on March 16, 2023.

Present:
Hon. Chad W. Brown, Surrogate

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
Ann H. Adore, Deceased

ORDER OF PUBLICATION
File # 2023-28

A CITATION having been duly issued, directed to the persons hereinafter named, among others, requiring them to show cause before this court on the 5th day of June 2023, why the prayer of the petitioner in the above-entitled proceeding should not be granted, NOW, on reading and filing satisfactory proof:

That the place of residence of Jamie Harding to whom said citation is directed is unknown and cannot with due diligence be ascertained; therefore it is ORDERED that service of said citation upon the persons above-named or described be made by publication thereof in one newspaper, to wit:

Alexandria Times published at 1199 N Fairfax St, Ste. 401 Alexandria, Virginia once each week for four successive weeks;

AND THE SURROGATE, being satisfied by proof upon which this Order is granted that the petitioner(s) cannot with reasonable diligence ascertain a place where the aforesaid unknown parties reside, hereby dispenses as to each party whose names and/or place of residence is unknown, the mailing of the citation.

[Signature]
Surrogate

LEGAL NOTICE
Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, held at City Hall, 301 King Street, Council Chamber and on Zoom webinar on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

Public Hearing, Second Reading and Final Passage of an Ordinance to amend Sections 3-2-82 and 3-2-85 (Encroachment fees) Article G of Chapter 2 of Title 3 (Finance, Taxation and Procurement) and Section 5-2-29 (Street Encroachments) Chapter 2 (Streets and Sidewalks) of Title 5 (Transportation and Environmental Services).

PUBLIC HEARING, Second Reading and Final Passage of an Ordinance, to Make Supplemental Appropriations for the Support of the City Government for Fiscal Year 2023.

PUBLIC HEARING, Public Hearing on the FY 2024 City Council Preliminary Add/Delete Proposals and the City Manager’s proposed amendments to the FY 2024 proposed budget. Budget Adoption is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Public Hearing of an Ordinance to expand the stated purpose of the Stormwater Utility Fee by amending Article C (STORMWATER UTILITY) to Chapter 6 (WATER AND SEWER) of Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES).

ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION & CITY COUNCIL
MAY 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.axandriava.gov/dockets.

ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023
7:00 PM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023
9:30 AM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

The May 2, 2023 Alexandria Planning Commission Public Hearing and the May 13, 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_8cVpE5G5FR6eLPCg9ibeA
Zoom Audio Conference:
Dial in: 301-715-8592
Webinar ID: 933 2756 1848
Password: 896448
City Council (Public Hearing Webinar):
Registration Link:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PHX2mPeRQsy5GpITq_LL7A
Zoom Audio Conference:
addresses in order to construct improvements shown pursuant to approved Development Special Use Permit #2019-00017; zoned: CDD #21/Coordinated Development District #21 (Beaugard).
Applicant: Alexandria Development Associates, LLC, represented by Kenneth W. Wire, attorney

1300 North Royal Street
Consideration of an endorsement for the Coordinated Sustainability Strategy for the Potomac River Generating Station pursuant to the conditions of approval for CDD#2021-00004.
Applicant: HRP Potomac, LLC, represented by Mary Catherine Gibbs, attorney

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.

Special Use Permit #2023-00020
114 North Patrick Street
Public Hearing and consideration for a parking reduction Special Use Permit with open space, lot frontage and side yard modifications; zoned: CD/Commercial Downtown.
Applicant: Jorge and Lorie Nevaras

Special Use Permit #2023-00023
103 West Glebe Road
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: CG/Commercial General.
Applicant: 103 W Glebe Road ALX LLC

Vacation #2023-00003
5165 and 5173 Seminary Road, 5118 and 5129 Fairbanks Avenue, 2641, 2648, and 2658 Foster Avenue – Upland Park Foster Avenue
Public Hearing and consideration of a request to vacate a portion of public right of way abutting multiple

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.

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Public Hearing and consideration of a request to vacate a portion of public right of way abutting multiple
Living, Loving, Listing Alexandria
WITH LAUREN BISHOP

Open Sunday 4/16, 1-3 pm
500 Canterbury Lane, Malvern Hill
Offered for $1,400,000

For Sale
500 Duke Street, Old Town
Offered for $3,495,000

Under Contract
412 E Bellefonte Avenue, Del Ray
Offered for $1,750,000

Sold
601 & 607 Oronoco Street, Old Town
Offered for $4,995,000

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Equal Housing Opportunity