There she is...

Alexandria principal chases Mrs. America crown to promote student literacy
BY AMY WILL

Patrick Henry K through 8 principal Ingrid Bynum has spent much of her career promoting the importance of education. As a young girl, she quickly realized the vital role reading played in her future.

“My first book ever ... was a Ramona Quimby book. And that book changed my life,” Bynum said.

Reflecting on her early childhood, Bynum said she grew up without books of her own. When she was eight years old, a program called Reading is Fundamental provided Bynum with her very first book.

“I immediately fell in love with Beverly Cleary. Then next, it was Judy Blume. That just started my love and my passion for literacy and knowing it’s important. Education was my way out of poverty,” Bynum said.

In June, Bynum decided to advocate on a much bigger stage, winning the crown of Mrs. Virginia.

See MRS. AMERICA | 8

Library restores most services

Investigation into June ‘data incident’ continues
BY KATIE CLIFFORD

Six weeks after a “data incident” involving the Alexandria Public Library computer system – which required the library to engage cybersecurity professionals and law enforcement – the investigation is still ongoing. Though many library services were initially disrupted, most had been restored as of Tuesday.

Nathan Carrick, senior communications officer for the library, said in an email exchange that some aspects of the library’s computer system remain unavailable due to the hack.

“While several Library services that were initially impacted have been restored, such as access to the public wi-fi, the Library catalog and borrowing of e-books and e-audiobooks through the Libby app ... [the library] is working diligently to restore other services such as access to public computer stations and public printing which are currently unavailable,” Carrick said in an emailed response on August 3.

Carrick said that as of this Tuesday, public internet and printing have been restored at all branches except for Burke. A comprehensive list of services can be found on the library’s website: alexlibraryva.org/library-services-FAQ

The library’s website mentions that at present payments for most fees and services cannot be accepted.

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INSIDE

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A renaissance of sweets is underway in Alexandria.
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Five tips for beating the summer heat.
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Compass Cares: Back to School Edition

It’s officially back to school season! As local students make their way back to class, we encourage you to get involved in making sure our students have a healthy and successful school year.

To partake in the Alexandria City Public School’s donation drive, please scan the code below! They accept donations in the form of school supplies or monetary gifts throughout the year — and we thank you in advance for helping support our community.

— Your Alexandria Real Estate Experts
According to ALXNow.com and the Alexandria Police Department, a 52-year-old Alexandria man suffered minor injuries after being sprayed in the face with an unknown substance around 2 a.m. on August 7 in Fairlington. The victim was attacked and then robbed. The victim was transported to the hospital.

APD updated their Twitter (known now as X) feed with a report of the incident occurring in the 3000 block of Park Center Drive.

This is still an active investigation and no arrests have been made. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the APD at 703-746-4444. Callers can remain anonymous.

-lgolden@alextimes.com

Sheriff’s office seeks public comments

The Alexandria Sheriff’s Office will be undergoing a web-based assessment with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. from August 25 through September 1. As part of this process, ASO invites the public to provide feedback directly to CALEA through an online portal.

The portal allows community members to offer comments regarding the Sheriff’s Office’s compliance with CALEA standards and delivery of law enforcement services. The portal is accessible through the Sheriff’s Office website at alexandriava.gov/sheriff.

-lgolden@alextimes.com

CORRECTION: In the August 10 issue of the Alexandria Times, the story “U.S. House grounds DCA flight amendment” incorrectly listed some of the “beyond-the-perimeter” destination cities currently served from Reagan National Airport. Non-stop service to San Diego has been discontinued from DCA, while service to San Juan, Puerto Rico has been added. The Times regrets the error.

Unknown substance used in attack

Sheriff’s office seeks public comments

Sheriff’s office seeks public comments
100 laptops awarded

Media and technology company Comcast awarded 100 laptops to Alexandria’s Summer Youth Employment Program. According to a release, the “program’s graduates were surprised with the laptops at a ceremony at Alexandria City High School on August 4. This donation is part of Project UP, Comcast’s $1 billion commitment to advance digital equity through programs and community partnerships that connect people to the Internet, advance economic mobility, and open doors for the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, storytellers, and creators.”
-lgolden@alextimes.com

New school zone speed program going live

The City of Alexandria’s new school zone speed camera program will go live for the 2023-24 school year. Speed cameras are placed school zones at Francis Hammond Middle School (Seminary Road, between Kenmore Avenue and North Jordan Street), John Adams Elementary School and Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School (North Beauregard Street, between North Highview Lane and Reading Avenue) and George Washington Middle School (Mount Vernon Avenue, between Braddock Road and Luray Avenue).

According to a release from the City of Alexandria, they “conducted a two-week warning period at the end of the 2022-23 academic year. Over 3,500 warning violations were issued to motorists in two weeks. An additional brief warning period will occur when school starts on August 21, and the program will go fully live on September 18…The speed cameras automatically record speed limit violations using radar technology. After a sworn law enforcement officer affirms a violation, a speeding citation will be mailed to the vehicle’s owner, lessee, or renter. The maximum fine is $100.”
-lgolden@alextimes.com

ADOPTABLE PET OF THE WEEK

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We are thrilled to congratulate our own Mary Ann Burstein for being elected to the Virginia REALTORS® 2024 Board of Directors! An exceptional leader, serving the REALTOR® community in Virginia in exceptional times!

We are also excited to congratulate our own Chris Perry named in the Top 50 Individuals honored by the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) as part of their inaugural Top 100 Awards list, recognizing Trailblazers in Black Excellence in Real Estate.

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not be accepted. The incident announcement with a link to more information for the public is displayed at the top of the Library’s homepage.

The Alexandria Library first became aware of the data incident on June 26, Carrick said in the August 3 email.

“As indicated on our website, the Alexandria Library system is experiencing a partial network outage due to that data incident. As soon as we became aware of the situation, the library’s leadership immediately engaged cybersecurity professionals and contacted law enforcement to remediate and investigate this incident,” Carrick said in the email.

Carrick said because the investigation is still ongoing, the library “cannot comment further on the specifics of the incident at this time.”

Despite the continuing investigation, which may take some time, it was business as usual at the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library in early August.

Visitors were busy on personal laptops and devices, doing research and taking online exams on the library’s available public wi-fi. Signing up for a library card was seamless—a brief online application and collection of a physical card, with proof of ID—and the foot traffic appeared steady.

That’s not to say some library users haven’t been left frustrated by the suspension of some of the usual services. Betty Guttmann, a regular library volunteer, recalled an incident about two weeks ago when a woman who came into the Beatley Jr. Central branch wanted to use the printers, not realizing they were inaccessible.

“She was shouting and carrying on and was evidently quite angry that she had come all the way to the library and couldn’t print,” Guttmann said. “But that was the only circumstance I can remember like that. In general, people have been very understanding.”

Guttmann, who said she didn’t feel as affected by the reduced services because she has devices at home, acknowledged that older seniors who may need computer assistance and people without access to a computer or printer in their own home, rely on the library’s services and perhaps have been more impacted.

Of the individuals in contact with the Times for this article, none had directly been affected or had their personal data compromised in the past six weeks or at the time the library became aware of the data incident.

The Alexandria Library branches include Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central, Kate Waller Barrett branch, Ellen Coolidge Burke branch, James M. Duncan Jr. branch, Local History/Special Collections branch and the Alexandria Law Library. Internet accessible computers are available at Central, Barrett, Burke, Duncan and the Law Library.

According to the Library’s website, internet computers “include access to Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge and Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Office 2019 (Word, Excel, and Powerpoint), Alexandria Library’s eCollection databases and Library Catalog as well as Ancestry Library. Access to these computers is permitted to all Alexandria Library cardholders as well as any visitor wishing to use a free guest pass for a computer session.”

In the “Library Policies” section of the website under “Public Computer Use” is the disclaimer: “The Library is not responsible for damage to a customer’s USB, or for any loss of data, damage or liability that may occur from customer’s use of the Library’s computers.”

The company called in to deal with the breach, The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, could not provide details on an ongoing investigation, but their website sheds some light on their approach to situations like this.

According to their website, CISA “works with partners to defend against today’s threats and collaborate to build a more secure and resilient infrastructure for the future” and is listed as a resource on the City of Alexandria’s Information Security Office page.

CISA’s external affairs adviser Antonio Soliz shared a resource with the Times titled “Federal Government Cybersecurity Incident and Vulnerability Response Playbooks,” which outlines “operational procedures for planning and conducting cybersecurity incident and vulnerability response activities in Federal Civilian Executive Branch (FC EB) information systems.”

According to the document, these playbooks provide “a standardized response process for cybersecurity incidents and describes the process and completion through the incident response phases as defined in National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publication (SP) 800-61 Rev. 2.5 including preparation, detection and analysis, containment, eradication and recovery, and post-incident activities.”

The document in its entirety can be found at: cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/federal-government-cybersecurity-incident-and-vulnerability-response-playbooks

Despite not all Library resources being available for use, and the root of the issue still unclear to the public, Guttmann’s opinion is the data incident won’t deter visitors and cardholders from using the Library in the future, or even while the investigation is still ongoing.

“It’s still a wonderful resource for people,” Guttmann said. “The library is like the soul of the city, really.”
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of Mrs. Virginia and shining the spotlight on her platform of student literacy.

“I was really honored to be a part of it [pageant] because there were so many educated, wonderful women,” Bynum elaborated.

Now, she has added a run for the national title of Mrs. America to her usual back-to-school preparations, a balancing act she said has been a bit challenging at times, but also incredibly rewarding.

“This is the first time ever that I’m going to miss the first day of school and the first week of school. And, I’m really sad because I love the excitement and the sheer joy on the children’s faces when they come in for the first day. But, I’ll be back on the [August] 28th and hopefully I’ll be back with the Mrs. America crown,” Bynum said.

Prior to the Mrs. Virginia competition, Bynum said she had only one other pageant on her resume.

“I did the Maryland USA pageant when I was an undergrad student at the University of Maryland at College Park. And that was to help fund my education,” she added.

Bynum admitted that despite that prior experience, the pageant world was still a little foreign.

“At first my husband was shocked because he had never heard of me talking about anything like this. My daughter was excited about it. When I won [Mrs. Virginia], I just recall looking for my husband in the audience and he was still standing there shocked,” Bynum recounted.

Bynum revealed time management has been one of the biggest hurdles in the process, but she eventually found her groove.

“There’s extensive training involved. I had a coach that I would travel to in Baltimore. And then I have a personal trainer that I see four days a week as well. I’m a principal at Patrick Henry and I’m a very happy, proud principal here. So, I give everything that I have to our students and our staff. So that was a lot,” she said.

Bynum first entered the state pageant hoping to raise awareness for her cause. She said student literacy has continued to be a driving force throughout her journey.

“I’m the only person in my family who has ever gone to college and received a degree. To be as far along as I am, thanks to education, is huge. And, I know if it impacted my life and changed my life in the way that it has, I know that children who live in underserved communities will have the same experience,” Bynum said.

Bynum understands the struggles many families face and said she knew she had to seize the opportunity to help those students who need it most.

“It’s difficult for parents nowadays, especially post pandemic. To have to make decisions between basic essentials for just living such as rent and gas and food, and then go to purchase a book for their child. There’s a library, but we find of-
tentimes that our parents are also working during the hours that the library is open,” Bynum said.

Bynum said she had a “lightbulb moment” that she could do some good with the pageant.

“This is really when I was kind of like, ‘gosh, if I could take this to a broader audience and really hone in with law-makers and partners who own companies and sponsorships to be able to provide books for children, this would be a great thing,’” she said.

The seasoned educator is now entering her 12th year as principal and said she has seen a shift in her students since the pandemic.

“Children are just not ok right now when it comes to academics,” Bynum lamented. “And those children who live in underserved communities really are not ok. And the ones who are not in our underserved communities still were impacted. So, I really wanted to make a big difference.”

Following her crowning as Mrs. Virginia, Bynum said doors began to open.

“I’ve already gone to see Congressman Bobby Scott, who was the ranking member on the House Education and Workforce Committee. I spoke about how we need more resources and more funding and more materials,” she said.

She said that meeting was just one of the many she plans to have to ensure every child has a library of their very own.

“I think some of the points I was talking to him about were pretty eye-opening. That children don’t have books and kids need these things. Then I realized if I’m able to get in to see him with just the title of Mrs. Virginia, what impact will I be able to make on a larger scale.

Ingrid Bynum’s national pageant gown is from Garrett Wayne Exquisite Apparel in Lynchburg. She is standing with its owner, Garry Viar.

SEE MRS. AMERICA | 10
as Mrs. America?"

Bynum said planning for the national competition, which will be held in Las Vegas on August 26, has been a family affair.

"My daughter is really excited. She is really excited about what this means for children who grew up like me. My husband will be there to support me. He’s been wonderful and I’m really looking forward to having him in Vegas with me," Bynum said.

One element of the Mrs. America pageant is a People’s Choice award. Voters have until August 21 to support their favorite delegate and Bynum is currently in the top slot.

"I’m in first place and I’d like to be able to hold on to that. That’ll take me into the top 15 automatically and guarantee me a spot for the finals," Bynum said.

Although the next couple of weeks will be busy, Bynum said she is not slowing down.

"At this point, I’m all in. If I can impact an entire generation of children in an incredible way, to change the trajectory of their lives for the better and open up doors of opportunity for them, I’m going for it."

And, whether she returns to the halls of her school with a title or no, Bynum hopes her story will inspire her students to dream big.

"I just want any little girls or even just any woman who’s reading, I want them to know that we are capable of doing any and everything that we put our minds to as women. And it definitely is possible to have an amazing career, be a mother, be a wife and still make a huge impact on the community. And if that’s something that they’re thinking of, I want them to go forward and do it," Bynum said.

To cast your vote for Ingrid Bynum for the Mrs. America People’s Choice award, visit: mrsamerica.com/delegates-2023-2

For more information or to support Reading Is Fundamental, visit: rifnova.org

--awill@alextimes.com
Sweet dreams

Delicious desserts debut in Alexandria

A renaissance of sweets is underway in Alexandria. Many popular dessert shops are making their way to the area as the summer draws to a close. Whether seeking a new date-night spot or simply looking to satisfy your sweet tooth with a fresh experience, here are four new spots that are worth checking out:

Crazy Mason Milkshake Bar
Crazy Mason Milkshake Bar, renowned for its visually stunning
and signature mason jar milkshakes, is slated to launch its newest location later this month at 716 King St.

Robert and Erin Studer, the couple behind the Alexandria store, as well as owners of another Crazy Mason outlet in Ellicott City, Md., couldn’t be more thrilled.

“Old Town Alexandria is one of our favorite places,” the couple said in a statement on the brand’s website. “With the waterfront, the cosmopolitan feel and the walkable nature of the town, we are so excited to announce our next location on King Street.”

Established in Myrtle Beach, S.C. in June 2020 by the entrepreneurial couple, Bo and Sherri Steele, the milkshake bar skyrocketed in popularity. In just three years, its success spurred multiple outlets, with Alexandria being the latest addition.

The menu boasts over 20 options. Highlights include the “Sweet Jesus,” a strawberry cheesecake inspired milkshake, and the Alexandria exclusive, “By George, It’s Cherry Good,” which is made of cherry vanilla ice cream and topped with whipped cream, a chocolate quarter, a piece of cherry pie and a cherry.

For those with dietary preferences, the owners are also adding Dole Whip to the menu, reminiscent of the beloved Disney World treat.

“We’ve got a couple dairy-free options from an ice cream perspective, but then we’ll also have this Dole Whip,” Robert Studer said. “Which is that pineapple flavored soft serve, which a lot of people really love.”

Though primarily a takeout venue, the owners are looking at potentially incorporating outdoor seating on the back patio as soon as next spring.

As for those eager to join the Crazy Mason family, Studer adds, “We’re planning to hire two assistant managers, one shift lead, and 20 to 25 crazy creators, which is kind of what we call the regular everyday employees.”

Anyone interested in joining the team can contact the Alexandria branch directly at alexandria@thecrazymason.com.

MidnightTreats

From its humble beginnings in a home kitchen in 2018 to a bustling storefront in Reston, the vegan cookie shop MidnightTreats has found its latest home at 110 S. Payne St. Owners Johnny and Diana Nguyen
are on a mission not just to serve delicious cookies, but to challenge perceptions about plant-based foods and make a difference in the community.

The store’s interior provides an ethereal and cozy atmosphere, transporting patrons into a midnight-themed cosmos. The design lives up to the store’s name and makes you want to grab a box of warm cookies — with each cookie being a unique treat.

“Every flavor we roll out has a different base,” Nguyen said. “It’s not like one base with different icings on top and calling it a different cookie. They’re all different bases.”

Their popular cinnamon roll cookie is described as “doughy,” crowned with cinnamon and vanilla icing. Their brownie cookie is rich with fudge and tastes just like a brownie, while the classic chocolate chip is semi-sweet and coated in chocolate chips.

“We use roughly like 30% to 50% less sugar than an average recipe, which helps both with not having like a sweet tooth or a sweet stomachache,” Nguyen said.

Thanks to a slower baking method the owners have dubbed “low and slow,” the cookies are baked all the way through. The result is a tall and thick cookie with a crisp exterior and a soft, moist center.

With MidnighTreats, the goal is to offer customers a plant-based alternative to a dessert everyone loves in an effort to challenge the stigma of plant-based foods.

“The whole mission itself is to combat abusive factory farming. That’s why everything’s plant-based and vegan,” Nguyen said.

Most customers are unaware that the cookies are plant-based, but when they do find out they’re pleasantly surprised. As Nguyen sums it up, “if it’s a good cookie, it’s a good cookie.”

MidnighTreats is also dedicated to giving back to the community and being environmentally conscious. By partnering with Eden Reforestation Projects, every box of cookies sold will fund the cost of one tree. As of now they’ve helped plant over 6,786 trees. They also donate to animal sanctuaries which rescue and care for abused animals, in addition to supporting local schools and homeless shelters.

While MidnighTreats is committed to making a global difference, at its heart, it’s about providing delicious, quality cookies that anyone can enjoy.
PORT CITY FLAVOR

Casa Rosada resumes selling artisan gelato despite crash into storefront
BY LESLIE GOLDEN

Pretty in pink

Casa Rosada resumes selling artisan gelato despite crash into storefront
BY LESLIE GOLDEN

Early on the morning of May 31, a driver crashed into Casa Rosada Artisan Gelato at 111 S. Payne St.

“We live 30 minutes away. The police called us after midnight. We were asleep. By the time we got here, the driver and the ambulance were gone. Only the police and firefighters remained. They came to check [the building]. The power didn’t go out, so the gelato was okay. And the building was secured two days later, but we didn’t reopen for several weeks,” owner Raquel Umansky said.

Due to the nature of the crash that impacted the storefront and main entrance of their establishment, Umansky said they had to wait on special permitting from the city to allow entry from a side alley before they could reopen.

Visitors will find a perfect view of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial framed between surrounding buildings as they walk down the alley and through a private courtyard with ample outdoor seating to the new entrance.

The daily “menu” is a wall adorned with miniature chalkboard slates announcing the delicious flavors of Argentine gelato and sorbet on offer. Some change daily, but there are classics that never go out of stock.

“Dulce de Leche is my favorite. It’s a traditional Argentine flavor. It’s not salted caramel like you may be used to,” Umansky said.

Others include mint chocolate, hazelnut, Oreolato (vanilla with bits of Oreo cookie), pistachio, lemon, pecan and many more.

Raquel and her husband Benjamin arrived here from Argentina more than 30 years ago. Benjamin was a chemical engineer and his job with ExxonMobil in Fairfax led them to the area.

Casa Rosada was born nine years ago upon his retirement as the couple perfected their recipe for Argentine-style gelato and sorbet.

When asked why she and her husband chose Alexandria as the location for their business nearly a decade ago, Umansky didn’t hesitate to explain their vision for a place with character, history and charm.

“We knew we wanted an old, historic town. We didn’t want a mall. We didn’t want to be in a shopping center,” Umansky said.

As they share on their website, “Casa Rosada directly translated from Spanish, means ‘pink house’ [and is] inspired by the Argentine presidential palace also called Casa Rosada.”

“Everything is made from scratch and is made on site. My husband and I create it all,” Umansky shared.

In addition to the scoops they serve, Casa Rosada offers made-to-order cakes created entirely from gelato and sorbet. A small is $55 and serves roughly 8 to 10 people. They also offer espresso, cortado, cafe con leche, submarino (hot chocolate) and more on site.

Pints are sold in assorted flavors as well as gelato cookie sandwiches. Sugar free choices are also available. There is even a sweet treat for your furry friends.

Umansky smiled as she shared the ingredients that make up their puppy gelato.

“The base is made of lactose-free milk, coconut oil, cane sugar and food starch with a pumpkin flavoring and the top has a shape of a bone and is made with banana and peanut butter.”

An adorable puppy logo graces the container.

“That is Henry. He is our son’s dog,” Umansky beamed.

She’s hoping the front of their building is repaired soon. It is difficult because of the age. The building was constructed in the 1870s.

“Because this is an old house. It has to be special, special, special. The siding and the glass. Everything is made to order,” she said.

For now, she’s hopeful customers continue to make their way down the alley to find Casa Rosada. Through Labor Day, they are currently open at noon and staying open until 10 p.m. They’ll adjust their hours and their offerings as the seasons change.

Come fall, “we add spice. We’ll have pumpkin and apple cinnamon,” Umansky said.

“And at Christmastime, we’ll make eggnog and gingerbread. And peppermint bark.”

-lgolden@alextimes.com
"Kulfi" is a popular Indian dessert that is similar to ice cream but more dense because of the cooking process. This recipe is for approximately 10 to 12 servings. Cooking times may vary based on the number of portions being prepared.

**Ingredients**
- 1 quart Half & Half
- 1 pint of heavy cream
- 6-8 ounces of sugar
- 3 ounces of finely chopped pistachios

**Directions**
1. In a large saucepan, add one-quart Half & Half and a half quart of heavy cream. Let it come to a boil then reduce on slow heat for two hours, stirring occasionally. After two hours, add one cup, or 6 to 8 ounces, of sugar. Cook on low heat for half an hour, stirring occasionally.
2. Add three ounces of finely chopped pistachios. Stir, turn off heat and let cool to room temperature. You can fill the liquid into small cups and then keep in the freezer overnight.
3. Once frozen, transfer to the fridge. Allow to thaw. Serve topped with chopped pistachios.
‘Tis the season

Do seasonal beers get released earlier every year? Hint: they don’t.

BY JOHN HARAHAN

Seasonal beers have been brewed since time immemorial. And people have never been great at delaying gratification. This is especially true for a satisfying beer. When the beer is ready, why wait to indulge?

Why would the brewer have the beer ready so early? Why do these beers brewed for fall continue to come out earlier every year? These questions have been posed to brewers for over a decade in the United States.

First, let us dispose of the idea that only new seasonal beers are released, sometimes months, before the actual season in which they were intended. The process of releasing seasonal beers early has been going on for over a decade, but why?

The first reason may surprise you. It has to do with consumer demand. Brewers do not brew beer for it to sit on a shelf and go stale. They brew seasonal beers early because the wholesalers, stores and consumers ask for them. You may turn your nose up at the idea of drinking a pumpkin beer or Oktoberfest-style beer in August, but for a person who is a fan of these styles and has been waiting for months for their favorite beer to come out, July may not be early enough. Even the Germans cannot seem to wait, since the festivities of Munich’s Oktoberfest start in mid-September.

Aside from consumer demand, the brewery must look at competition and shelf space. First there needs to be an understanding of the sales of beer in the United States. By law, sales of beer occur under a three-tier system. Those tiers are the brewery, the wholesaler and the retailer.

There are some exceptions to this on a state-by-state basis based on criteria like a brewery’s size. If a rival brewery is coming out with their seasonal offerings earlier to meet the demand, that brewery is beating competition to market. By controlling shelf space and being on the forefront of the minds of sales representatives, store managers and consumers, the brewery boasts bigger sales.

For other brewers to contend in an ever more competitive market, they must satisfy the needs of that market. If the consumers, wholesalers and store owners want the product and the competition is already selling, a brewer would be silly not to brew their beer “early.” It is always advantageous for the brewer to sell more beer. If releasing a beer early allows them to do that, then they ought to.

Beer is a perishable product. In many ways, beer is liquid bread. The supply chain for beer is not a short one. And the seasons for seasonal beers are not long ones. People do not buy “holiday” beers on the first day of February, nor do they buy “winter” beers on the first of March. Consumers do not buy Oktoberfest-style beers on the first of December.

The winter beers in March are typically shelf stable and relatively tasty, but the perception for the consumer changes as the calendar does. Beers will sit and gather dust. It is better to get the beer out of the brewery door sooner rather than later, so it can hit the shelves and sell through before the next season arrives.

A brewer is tasked with keeping the beer fresh, meeting market demands, selling as much beer as possible and not getting stuck with old beer on a shelf. How do they combat these challenges?

Releasing a beer early enough so that consumers can buy what they want, when they want helps with this problem. Beer can last through a season and can be replaced by the next upcoming season as the last season sells out.

People have never been great at delaying gratification and when it comes to a delicious seasonal beer, why delay? We are so lucky.

The writer is a brewer and social media manager at Port City Brewing Company.
ELEVATED WATERFRONT DINING

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TUESDAY-FRIDAY 2-6 PM | SATURDAY 3-5 PM

Restaurant Week
Summer 2023
August 18-25 | Tuesday-Friday
Three-Course Prix Fixe Lunch $45

August 18-26 | Tuesday-Saturday
Two-Course Prix Fixe Dinner $45

WAGYU BURGER & FRIES

571.344.9100 | julasotp.com
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Stop Googling
Ask Ironistic!
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703.829.0809

Maui Needs Assistance

Many want to know how best to help the residents of western Maui who were displaced by the fires. Here are several sites that have been vetted and that are taking monetary donations.

- Maui Humane Society
- Maui Rapid Response
- Maui Strong Fund from Hawaii Community Foundation
- New Life Kahu Inc. leads to the Wildfire Fund
- World Central Kitchen

**AUGUST 18**

**RESTAURANT WEEK**
Nearly 70 restaurants will begin offering prix fixe dinners during Alexandria restaurant week.

*Time*: Varied
*Location*: Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and Eisenhower.

**LATIN BALLET**
Dance along with the Latin Ballet of Virginia while enjoying stories and music from the cultures of Spain and Latin America. All ages.

*Time*: 10:30 to 11 a.m.
*Location*: 5005 Duke St.
*Information*: alexlibraryva.org/event/8544051

**SPLATTER SUMMER**
Robert McCall loved painting technically accurate images for NASA and futuristic space scenes. Create your own space scene with Splatter Summer Arts. Ages 6 through teens welcome.

*Time*: 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
*Location*: 2501 Commonwealth Ave.
*Information*: alexlibraryva.org/event/8663225

**MT. VERNON FLEA**
Community event with something for everyone. Vendors and crafters. Antique, vintage, retro and handmade items for sale. Includes vendors who sell for charitable causes.

*Time*: 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
*Location*: 8717 Ft. Hunt Road
*Information*: mountvernonfleamarket.wordpress.com

**BANDS AND BREWS**
Come to Del Ray for live music and specials on beer, cocktails and food. Tickets are required. Age 21+ to participate in the bar crawl, but children are welcome at family-friendly establishments. Proceeds will benefit the Friends of Duncan Library.

*Time*: 12:30 to 6 p.m.
*Location*: Mt. Vernon Avenue
*Information*: visitdelray.com

**SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVEAWAY**
Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority in partnership with Hilco will host a school supply giveaway. Volunteers will be giving away more than 700 backpacks with school supplies.

*Time*: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
*Location*: 901 Wythe St.
*Information*: arha.us/school-supplies-giveaways-weekend

**AUGUST 19**

**ALZHEIMER’S SUPPORT**
Alexandria Library partners with the Alzheimer’s Association’s National Area Chapter to bring you a quarterly support group for caregivers.

*Time*: 2 to 3:30 p.m.
*Location*: 5005 Duke St.
*Information*: alexlibraryva.org/event/8857742

**COOL YOGA**
Cool Yoga is suitable for all levels and always free. Bring a mat. Weather dependent.

*Time*: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
*Location*: 1900 Mt. Vernon Ave.
*Information*: facebook.com/coolyoga2014

**RIVER FARM PICNIC**
A free event. Open to the public. The American Horticultural Society celebrates 50 years at River Farm. Live music. Guests are encouraged to pack a blanket, food and drink. Enjoy terrific tunes in the beautiful gardens overlooking the Potomac.

*Time*: 8 p.m.
*Location*: 7931 East Boulevard Drive
*Information*: eventbrite.com/e/river-farm-anniversary-picnic-featuring-soulfire-tickets-67955861

**AUGUST 20**

**CULTURAL FOOD FESTIVAL**
Travel around the world and experience cuisine and culture from dozens of countries. Family and pet friendly. Free. Rain or shine.

*Time*: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
*Location*: 100 Madison St.
*Information*: aroundtheworldfestival.com

**APOTHECARY TRAINING**
The Stabler-Leadbeeter Apothecary Museum is asking for volunteers. You can attend in-person workshops or take an online class to receive certification to ILead tours. Free to apply. A monthly commitment required.

*Time*: 9 to 11 a.m.
*Location*: 105 – 107 S. Fairfax St.
*Information*: alexandriava.gov/Apothecary

**ZONING FOR HOUSING**
City will host an event to kick-off the fall programming for the Zoning for Housing/Housing for All initiative. Panel. Community roundtable. Light refreshments.

*Time*: 6 to 8:30 p.m.
*Location*: 2460 Eisenhower Ave.
*Information*: alexandriava.gov/planning-and-zoning/zoning-for-housinghousing-for-all#Proposed2023ZoningforHousingInitiatives

**AUGUST 21**

**SUMMER SUNDAY**
More than a dozen working artists displaying and selling their original works. Children’s games and activities will be featured. Live music. Snacks and beverages. Admission and children’s activities are FREE. Parking is available on surrounding streets; follow local signage.

*Time*: 1 to 4 p.m.
*Location*: 800 block of N. Royal St.
*Information*: oldtownnorthalliance.com

**AUGUST 22**

**APOTHECARY TRAINING**
The Stabler-Leadbeeter Apothecary Museum is asking for volunteers. You can attend in-person workshops or take an online class to receive certification to ILead tours. Free to apply. A monthly commitment required.

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Staying cool

Five tips for beating the summer heat
BY DIANA REYNOSO

Excessive heat has caused more deaths than any other weather events. A heat wave is a prolonged period of excessive heat, generally 10 degrees or more above average, often combined with excessive humidity. Hot weather is dangerous and seniors are particularly prone to its threat.

There are several reasons for elderly heat vulnerability that can lead to heat stroke and heat exhaustion. People’s ability to notice changes in their body temperature decreases with age. Many seniors also have underlying health conditions that make them less able to adapt to heat. Additionally, some medicines that seniors take can contribute to dehydration.

Fortunately, a few simple precautions are all that’s needed to keep safe. Below are a few tips to stay cool:

Hydrate
Dehydration is the root of many heat-related health problems. Drink plenty of water or juice, even if you’re not thirsty. Remember to avoid alcoholic or caffeinated drinks as they can actually contribute to dehydration.

Lighten up
When it’s hot out, wear light-colored, lightweight and loose-fitting clothes. Add a wide-brimmed hat for extra protection from the sun.

Stay in
During periods of extreme heat, the best time to run errands or be outdoors is before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m. when the temperature tends to be cooler. Try to stay indoors during midday hours.

Know the signs
Dizziness, nausea, headache, rapid heartbeat, chest pain, fainting and breathing problems are all warning signs that help should be sought immediately. Be aware of the signs of heat-related illnesses and seek medical attention if necessary.

Cool down
Seniors whose houses aren’t air-conditioned should consider finding an air-conditioned place to spend time during extreme heat. Seniors without convenient access to any air-conditioned place might consider a cool bath or shower.

Should you or a loved one exhibit any of these symptoms, seek help immediately. Medical attention may be necessary.

If you are a City of Alexandria resident, you might be eligible to receive a fan through the Senior Cool Care Program. The program ends October 31 and is sponsored by Dominion Energy and the City of Alexandria. To see if you qualify, please contact the Division of Aging and Adult Services at 703-746-5999.

The writer is an aging specialist with the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services.

Woodleigh Chase℠ is the stunning new senior living community coming to Fairfax, Virginia.

Only a limited number of stylish, maintenance-free apartment homes remain. Don’t miss your chance to become a pioneer resident!

Call 1-888-216-5192 for your free brochure.
Clean earth

Five home cleaning hacks to save time, energy and the planet

BY BRANDPOINT

Everyone loves a clean home, but as the weather gets nicer, many of us want to spend less time sprucing up and more time enjoying summer with family and friends. This is when a few good cleaning hacks can come in handy.

In a recent online survey, 92% of respondents noted they’d like some type of cleaning “hack” to save time and energy. To help get the job done faster and easier, consider these home cleaning tips and tricks. Bonus: They all take a greener approach to cleaning so you can feel good about your home and your impact on the planet.

Ice, ice baby

A lot of crud goes down your kitchen sink drain. If you have a garbage disposal, it can get dirty and stinky over time. The blades of the disposal system are dangerous to clean directly, so instead, toss in a few ice cubes and run the system for a minute. Better yet, freeze a bit of lemon or orange rind into the cubes to clean the blades and leave behind a fresh scent.

Steam clean

Instead of scrubbing a grimy microwave, use the power of steam. Place a cup of water in a large microwave-safe bowl or container like a glass measuring cup and add a splash of lemon juice for a citrus scent. Run on high for three to five minutes so the water steams the microwave and softens the food

SEE GREEN CLEANING | 21

HOME OF THE WEEK

Exquisite townhome in coveted Carlyle

An opportunity to own in Carlyle City Residences, a small enclave of 26 elegant townhomes situated within a very short walk to parks, shopping and the Metro. This beautiful home boasts 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths, hardwood floors, a kitchen balcony with a gas hook-up for easy grilling and a spacious rooftop terrace with a fantastic view.

The huge triple-arched windows wash the inviting open floor plan in natural light. Park your car in your private garage and walk to shops, restaurants and more. The ground level makes a perfect home office or a possible fourth bedroom. The main level is airy with a gas fireplace and outstanding views off the kitchen balcony. The primary suite has a deep walk-in closet and a bath with double sinks, separate shower and soaking tub. An inviting roof-top terrace and full bath highlight the top floor.

The Carlyle urban neighborhood has the feeling of a bustling area with a cool vibe. Located just three blocks to the King St. Metro and two blocks to Whole Foods. Excellent restaurants and Starbucks are literally around the corner. Shopping, banking and an AMC theater are nearby.

Address: 1859 Ballenger Ave., Alexandria 22314

Neighborhood: Carlyle

Price: $1,149,000

Square feet: 2,178

Bedrooms: 4

Bathrooms: 3.5

Year built: 2001

Contact:
Joan Shannon
Joan.Shannon@compass.com
703-507-8655

HOMES ADVERTORIAL
GREEN CLEANING FROM | 20

Avoid bringing toxins into your home by using biobased products. Biobased cleaners are available and safe for all the surfaces in the home while still being tough on grease and grime. In addition, skip the wasteful paper towel by using washable and reusable microfiber cloths. Most are made from 80% post-consumer recycled material. These cleaning cloths can be washed and reused up to 300 times.

Head’s up
There’s nothing like jumping into a shower and looking forward to a warm cascade of droplets, only to be met with a frantic spray with unsatisfying pressure. Over time, minerals in the water can build up on the shower head and block the flow. An easy solution is to remove the head and place it in a bowl of vinegar. A quick soak loosens buildup that you can easily clean off with a small brush so your shower flows again.

Bet on baking soda
Baking soda is one of the most versatile natural cleaning ingredients. Known for its ability to absorb scents and deodorize, it’s great for cleaning tough spots around your home. Have a carpet that could use a refresh? Sprinkle baking soda on the carpet, let it sit for half an hour and then vacuum. You can also do this for other soft-surface areas of the home that are hard to deodorize, such as couches, chairs and mattresses.

These hacks help save time and energy cleaning, plus you can feel good that you’re being kind to the planet. The only thing left is to enjoy your summertime fun!
Editorial

Not on track

There's an old adage about someone who “cuts off their nose to spite their face.” While certainly a bizarre image, it means that someone inflicts harm on themselves in their great hurry to get at someone else. It appears that's what the city's doing by building light towers literally right on the track at Francis C. Hammond Middle School.

There are several important facets to this issue – and a lot of attendant noise. But here's the bottom line: The City of Alexandria is currently deliberately destroying a track used by a middle school and nearby neighbors, many of them low-income, in Alexandria's West End for no good reason.

The elements at play here involve equity, honesty, a lawsuit and plain old common sense.

The word equity is tossed around a lot in this city, often in a self-congratulatory way. But too often decisions are made that are anything but equitable.

Hammond is surrounded by apartment complexes filled with low-income residents. Anyone whose child played soccer on the sunken field not-so-fondly remembered as “Death Valley” knows what a neglected wreck the grounds of the school were for years. As Alexandria resident Frank Putzu points out in his commentary on the next page, this finally began to change a decade ago, when the track at Hammond was built.

A mere 10 years later, Alexandria’s City Council and School Board are allowing this track to be destroyed so that an adjacent field can be lit – and mainly used at night by adults. Imagine the uproar if a comparable facility were being destroyed at George Washington Middle School in much more affluent Del Ray.

Putzu and many other residents are complaining that city staff have pulled a classic bait and switch maneuver. They claim that during hearings on potentially lighting the field at Hammond, presentations showed poles for the lights outside the track.

But, oops, staff apparently forgot about the city's setback requirements and so when the matter came before council for a vote, the light tower had been moved from outside the track to the first lane on it.

The issue at hand is not whether it's discernible that the revised drawings in a graphic depicting tiny light poles at the back of the large project application clearly showed the light poles' location. The question is:

Did City Council members knowingly vote to destroy the track at Francis C. Hammond Middle School last November? And does the School Board agree with this destruction of Alexandria City Public Schools property? Every member of both bodies should honestly answer this question.

The Hammond situation is further complicated by the existence of a lawsuit from people opposed to lighting the field at Hammond, regardless of where lights would be placed. The only prism through which the city's actions on this topic make any sense at all is that they will go to great lengths to "win" on this issue of lighting fields.

A verbal pledge was broken when lights were added to the football field at then-T.C. Williams High School back in 2018. The subsequent decision to light fields throughout the city has also been contentious – and litigious.

We have no qualms with lighting many-to-most of the athletic fields in the City of Alexandria. We actually are agnostic on whether this particular field at Hammond should be lit. But destroying the Hammond track, a useful community asset, to light an adjacent field is utterly lacking in common sense.

We hope Vice Mayor Amy Jackson and Councilor Alyia Gaskins are able to fix this fiasco, as leadership on this issue is sorely needed.

Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson

Photo of the Week

Flooding occurred in the west part of Old Town on Monday, as water quickly rose on King, Daingerfield, Diagonal, Chantal and Prince Streets.

Letters

Looking for a win-win on DCA flights

To the editor:

The story “U.S. House grounds DCA flight amendment” in the August 10 Alexandria Times contained a couple of factual errors. The list of long distance destinations – those beyond 1,250 miles – with nonstop service erroneously included San Diego, which once did have nonstop service but does not currently, and omitted San Juan, PR. In addition, the statement: “Long-distance flights use larger planes and carry more passengers, which can increase noise and airport congestion” is simply untrue.

For example, Alaska and United both use the B737-800 (738) for long distance flights to the west coast and to Denver. The 738 is one of the most popular aircraft at DCA and is used extensively by Southwest, American, Delta and United to fly to short distance destinations such as Chicago, Charlotte, Orlando and Miami – all in the exact same aircraft. Sadly, the “longer must be bigger/louder” belief continues to be a common misconception.

From a noise perspective, I understand folks’ concerns about adding additional flights – of course more flights mean more noise. But whether the flights are long distance or not should not be part of this discussion.

Although I agree with most of your edi-

Letters

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.
Who runs the city?

BY FRANK PUTZU

In 2012, athletic facilities at Francis Hammond Middle School were renovated to install a turf field and running track. The city held a dedication ceremony led by Mayor William Euille to celebrate the grand opening. A lot of residents, counselors and school officials worked hard and long to get the track, which became a critical community asset, drawing residents from the surrounding neighborhoods, including affordable housing.

The track has been heavily used by the school. There are dozens of people, if not more, using the track daily for exercise, even including mothers pushing strollers.

Now, the city is installing lights for the field with the poles located on the track. It will essentially ruin the track. What’s worse is that no one informed anyone that was the plan. Quite a change from the capacity and utility that was realized when Mayor Euille cut the ribbon 10 years ago.

Last year, RPCA submitted a special use permit for lighting rectangular playing fields at multiple school properties, including Hammond. RPCA’s Deputy Director Jack Browand briefed the School Board showing the location of the light poles at Hammond between the outside edge of the track and the sidewalk on Pickett Street, where it violated setback requirements but would not impact school operations and the track. The same representations were made at both community meetings and to multiple organizations.

RPCA quietly changed the location of the poles from outside the track to inside the track when it got to Council. At the City Council public hearing on this matter last November, RPCA presented an aerial depiction of a lit Hammond field. On that presentation slide, the lights appear to be off the inside edge of the track, but certainly not on it. The staff report contains the same aerial depiction on two separate pages.

Last Thursday, Seminary Hill Association reached out to City Council and School Board members to inform them that large holes had been drilled for the installation of light poles in the third lane of the track. Who would do that? The city said that the mistake was the fault of the contractor, who would be responsible for fixing it.

The very next day, new holes were drilled – in the first lane of the track, but still on the track.

One Council member responded that if one very closely examines a contractor drawing all the way back on page 179 of the staff report – after about 150 pages of emails where no one was likely to see and examine it – it shows the lights over the field, and the poles situated in the first lane of the track.

It is of course silly to think any Council member ignored the presentation and body of the staff report, and that is what matters. Were City Council and School Board members aware of their affirmative votes would equate to ruining the Hammond Middle School track? Doubtful.

Staff said nothing about risking the track at the Council hearing.”

– Frank Putzu, lawyer

Despite this turmoil and mistakes, the city continues to rush forward with this project despite a related ongoing lawsuit. To date, the city has pretended that litigation does not exist, although they have been notified they may have to take the poles down.

SHA requested that further construction be halted and that city officials re-open the process before they further ruin the track for our residents, middle school students and community users. Instead, the city is rushing construction, in what appears to be an effort to beat a court’s potential decision or avoid proper authorization from Council and the School Board.

Who is running this city?

The writer is a lawyer and longtime Alexandria resident who is vice president of the Seminary Hill Association.
Opened in 1960, the Olde Colony Motor Lodge and Conference Center epitomized a moment in Alexandria’s tourism history. Designed by Charles A. Pearson to imitate buildings in Colonial Williamsburg and the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, the Olde Colony Motor Lodge reflected Alexandria’s desire to compete with Williamsburg for tourists seeking a historical – or presumed historical – experience.

The image here is from a postcard in the early 1960s. The back of the postcard read: “On beautiful Mount Vernon Memorial Highway in Alexandria, is Virginia’s most modern and luxurious motor court. With architecture and grounds designed to simulate a colonial estate, its pink brick buildings reflect the charm of 18th-century manor house life. In the rich atmosphere of the traditional old South, guests enjoy every comfort of modern living, including radio, telephone, air-conditioning and television in every room. Convenient to the nation’s capitol, Olde Colony is ideal for families, businessmen and convention groups. 102 Rooms - 3 minutes South of National Airport, cor. N. Washington and First Sts., Alexandria, Va.”

A 1963 motel brochure described the complex as “11 buildings laid out to simulate a colonial estate,” language that probably sounded better to early 1960s marketers than current readers. On top of historical tourism, the motor lodge fit in with other trends in North Old Town at the time.

Similar to the Hot Shoppe location owned by J.W. Marriott, the Olde Colony Motor Lodge sought to attract visitors driving up the George Washington Memorial Parkway into Washington, D.C. At the same time that it marketed itself as a vision of the past, the Olde Colony Motor Lodge also sought to appeal to the modern phenomenon of large-scale automobile use.

Few things last forever, even in Alexandria, and the motor lodge was demolished to build the Liberty Row condominiums. The one remaining building from the conference center is the former registration building, which was turned into a private residence. Postcards were regularly sold in Alexandria both as a way to update loved ones of tourist travel and as a form of advertising.

This postcard from the 1960s both captures a moment in Alexandria’s history and is an artifact of that history itself.

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

DEATH NOTICES
LISA ANTHONY (50),
formerly of Alexandria, Aug. 1, 2023
RENO CARLITTI (25),
formerly of Alexandria, Aug. 7, 2023
ROBERT NICHOLSON (72),
of Alexandria, Aug. 6, 2023

Solutions from last week

ACROSS
1 Study of light and vision
2 Conservation org. with panda in logo
3 NFL officials
4 Appear to be true
5 Healthy
6 Entire range
7 Marijuana label, in a way?
8 Employs
9 Campfire remnant
10 Increase, as volume
11 Words at altar
12 Has cell service
13 Wooden pin
14 Words with “date” or “speed”
15 DHL competitor
16 Greedy courtroom strategy, in a way?
17 City transport option
18 Buffon
19 No. 1
20了一些
21 Outnumbered people
22 Buffon
23 Nautical distress call
24 Wife
25 One side of Ryder Cup
26 The “P” of mph
27 Latin masses
28 Banded volcanic rock
29 Experienced again
30 Salami style
31 Hand (out)
32 Hard precipitation
33 Aye’s opposite
34 Worker safety org.
35 Choux pastries filled with cream
36 “Star Wars” stormtrooper who goes rogue
37 Absolutely exhausted
38 “Bro…”
39 CPR pro
40 “Is this really necessary?”
41 Written exam alternatives
42 Instruct
43 Beat using one’s wits
44 Forest
45 “Forget it!”
46 Drizzle
47 Shout
48 ___ Paulo, Brazil
49 Has a dinner party, perhaps
50 Spreadsheet input
51 ___ Dame
52 Bandy-___
53 Three-time AL MVP
54 Some round earrings
55 Class for tots
56 Sounds of interruption
57 “Booyakasha!”
58 ___ arigato, Mr. Roboto
59 Looney Tunes huntsman
60 Use a fork, say
61 Prepped for an exam
62 December 24th or 31st
63 Completely vegan, in a way?
64 Feudal estate
65 Has the tags still on, say
66 “Ooh, burn!” reaction
67 Absolutely exhausted
68 Wireless credit card chip tech (Abbr.)
69 “Ooh, burn!” reaction
70 “Star Wars” stormtrooper who goes rogue
71 Used
72 “Ooh, burn!” reaction
73 Preceded
74 Pollinator attractor
75 “Forget it!”
76 “Get out of my face!”
77 ____ Miserables
78 Chinese胶
79 British Sunday fare
80 ___ El (Superman’s birth name)
81 With the tags still on, say
82(TM)___
83 ____ Miserables
84 ___ Paulo, Brazil
85 ___ Paulo, Brazil
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125 ___ Paulo, Brazil
126 ___ Paulo, Brazil

DOWN
1 Worker safety org.
2 ___ Miserables
3 Knowledge check
4 Word from one in the know
5 CBS forensics drama
6 Nautical distress call
7 Light reading?
8 Ire
9 Fruit in Christmas pudding
10 Fried Spanish pastry
11 “Rumor ___...”
12 First letter of the Hebrew alphabet
13 Word spelled out by Aretha Franklin
14 Butt
15 Sets out for a road trip
16 Gets ready for a road trip
17 ___ Dame
18 ___ Dame
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OR THEREABOUTS by Zachary David Levy and Katie Hale, edited by Jeff Chen

18 Study of light and vision
22 Conservation org. with a panda in its logo
26 NFL officials
30 Entire range
34 Employs
38 Campfire remnant
42 Healthy
46 Worker safety org.
50 Words at altar
54 Increase, as volume
58 Has cell service
62 Words from one in the know
66 CBS forensics drama
70 Nautical distress call
74 Light reading?
78 Ire
82 Fruit in Christmas pudding
86 Fried Spanish pastry
90 “Rumor ___...”
94 First letter of the Hebrew alphabet
98 Word spelled out by Aretha Franklin
102 Gets ready for a road trip
106 Gets ready for a road trip
110 Words at altar
114 Words from one in the know
118 Has cell service
122 Words from one in the know
126 Words from one in the know

Solutions from last week

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ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION & CITY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 2023

The items described below will be heard by the Planning Commission and the City Council on the dates and times listed below. NOTICE: Some of the items listed below may be placed on a Consent Calendar. A consent item will be approved at the beginning of the meeting without discussion unless someone asks that it be taken off the Consent Calendar and considered separately. The Planning Commission reserves the right to recess and continue the Public Hearing to a future date. For further information, call the Department of Planning & Zoning at 703.746.4666 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/dockets.

ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023
7:00 PM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023
9:30 AM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

The September 5, 2023, Alexandria Planning Commission Public Hearing is being held in the Council Chamber (301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314) and electronically. Members of the Planning Commission and staff are participating in person. The Planning Commission Public Hearing can be accessed by the public in the 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 link: 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_PRM4nO8T8qLGEwza9jMw

Zoom Audio Conference: Dial in: 301-715-8592
Webinar ID: 998 7415 9741
Password: 157659

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

Public comment will be received at the meeting. The public may submit comments in advance to Department of Planning & Zoning staff at PlanComm@alexandriava.gov for the Planning Commission Hearing or make public comments on the day of the 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. We request that you provide a 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made.

Special Use Permit #2023-00052
800 and 820 Slaters Lane
(Parcel address: 800 Slaters Lane) - The Art League
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit for a private commercial school; zoned: RC/High density apartment
Applicant: Suzanne Bethel

Special Use Permit #2023-00060
2000 Mount Vernon Avenue - Evening Star Cafe / HiFi Tex-Mex BBQ
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit to add outdoor seating at an existing restaurant (amending SUP2012-00054); zoned: CL/Commercial Low.
Applicant: Majestic Grill, Inc., represented by M. Catharine Puskar, Attorney

Development Special Use Permit #2023-10004
West End (Landmark) Open Spaces - 5801 Duke Street
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Development Special Use Permit to construct the Central Plaza (Blocks F and N), Paseo (Block R), and Terrace Park (Block P), including two retail/restaurant pavilions with outdoor dining, a playground, seasonal ice-skating rink, sports courts, and areas for passive recreation; zoned CDD #29/Coordinated Development District #29.
Applicant: Landmark Land Holdings, LLC, represented by Kenneth Wire, Attorney

Special Use Permit #2023-00011
West End (Landmark) Comprehensive Sign Plan - 5801 Duke Street
Applicant: Landmark Land Holdings, LLC, represented by Kenneth Wire, Attorney

Development Special Use Permit #2023-10008
West End (Landmark) Blocks E & G Major Amendment - 5801 Duke Street
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Development Special Use Permit to amend the Block E & G approval for three mixed-use buildings with 390 apartments, ground floor retail, and medical office space to have the option to infill the Block E ground floor courtyard by extending the adjacent commercial space, adding new rooftop open space, and other associated changes to the ground floor layout; (amending DSUP #2022-10017); zoned CDD #29/Coordinated Development District #29.
Applicant: Landmark Land Holdings, LLC, represented by Kenneth Wire, Attorney

Public Hearing and consideration of a request for the Planning Commission to adopt a resolution amending its Fiscal Year 2024 meeting schedule and establish continuation dates for meetings. Staff: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning & Zoning

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

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

Special Use Permit #2023-00067
3205 Colvin Street
Administrative Special Use Permit request for a New Use for Auto Trailer Rental or Sales; zoned: I/Industrial & Cg/Commercial General
Applicant: Ray Baskerville
Business Name: Total Package Auto LLC
Planner: Mavis Stanfield - mavis.stanfield@alexandriava.gov

In accordance with Section 11-500 of the Zoning Ordinance, the above listed requests may be approved administratively by the Director of Planning & Zoning. If you have any comments regarding the proposals above, please contact Planning & Zoning staff at 703.746.4666 or email the planner listed no later than September 7, 2023.

The City’s Draft Participation Plan has been developed in accordance with guidelines set forth by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The Participation Plan is a document that provides for, and encourages, public participation and which emphasizes participation by persons of low- or moderate-income, particularly residents of predominantly low- and moderate-income neighborhoods in the allocation process of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds, Section 108 loan funds, and any other housing and community funds appropriated to the City by HUD.

The Participation Plan lays out how residents will be given access to information and records related to the City’s use of funds; how public hearings will be held to obtain resident views and questions on proposed activities and review of program performance; how written complaints will be answered; how the City will meet the needs of non-English speaking residents at public hearings where a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate; and how other HUD requirements for public participation will be met.

Beginning August 21, the Draft Participation Plan will be available on the City’s Website at alexandriava.g...
gov/Housing and for review at the following City libraries:

BEATLEY CENTRAL LIBRARY: 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria
BARRETT BRANCH LIBRARY: 717 Queen Street, Alexandria
BURKE BRANCH LIBRARY: 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria
DUNCAN BRANCH LIBRARY: 2501 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria

Copies of the Draft Participation Plan may also be reviewed or picked up at the Office of Housing, located at 421 King Street, Suite 215, Alexandria, VA from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.Hard copies are also available via postal mail upon request.

Written comments may be sent via postal mail to the Office of Housing at the address above, delivered to the Office of Housing in person, or emailed to kimberly.cadena@alexandriava.gov. Comments will be accepted until 5 p.m. on September 22.

For further information or requests for reasonable accommodations, please call Kim Cadena at the Office of Housing at 703.746.4990, or TTY 703.838.3056 for the hearing impaired.

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