Afghan refugees fleeing the Taliban deal with rodent, insect infestations in Alexandria apartments
BY LEXIE JORDAN AND WAFIR SALIH

In August 2021, when the Taliban gained full control of Kabul, thousands of Afghans found themselves fleeing with hopes for better lives in the United States. Around 1,000 of those Afghan refugees resettled in Alexandria.

Little did these Afghans expect, upon their arrival in Alexandria, to be fleeing from rodents and bed bugs in the apartments that were supposed to be their refuge.

All of the apartments in question are managed by Morgan Properties, which runs five apartment complexes in Alexandria: Bennington Crossings, Brookdale, Lynbrook, Stoneridge and Willow Run.

Arafat Safi, who resided at Willow Run for 18 months, said the infestation in his family’s apartment was severe.

“
If they weren’t Afghan refugees, would this be happening to them?”
–a local pastor

SEE AFGHAN REFUGEES
OLD TOWN | COMING SOON

Historic 1840’s 3-story townhome in the SE Quadrant. Renovated 2 bedroom 1.5 bath, updated kitchen, SS appliances and new baths. Georgetown patio with alley access. Southern exposure, original working fireplaces, restored random width pine floors and sealed brick wall and floors. Dining room with brick arch and fireplace, living room and den with fireplace, powder room and French doors to patio. Two bedrooms—primary bedroom facing south has soaring ceilings and loft with access to additional storage under the eaves. Second bedroom has French doors overlooking gardens. Great location blocks to the River, shopping and restaurants.

BALLSTON/ARLINGTON | $2,199,000

Sought-after Ballston, this stunning home is approx. 5,700 sq ft on four levels with 6 bedrooms and 5.5 baths and is situated on a quiet cul-de-sac. It is just five-blocks to the metro, parks, bike path, shops and dining. Sunlit living and dining rooms with 10-ft ceilings. Open family room with coffered ceilings, stone fireplace, and a gourmet kitchen. The LL has a recreation room, wet bar, gym & guest suite. Beautiful landscaped yard, patio, and 2 car garage with charging station.

OLD TOWN | $975,000

Fabulous brick row home with inviting front porch, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, hardwood floors, Living room with gas fireplace, dining room, updated kitchen, partially finished basement with outside entrance, HEATED patio, secure parking with garage door and alley access! Blocks to King Street METRO, shops, restaurants and bike path!

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Shooting suspect arrested last Thursday

Shooting suspect Rae’Qwan McClinnahan was arrested August 31 for his alleged involvement in the 800 W. Glebe Road shooting, which took place on July 24. McClinnahan, 26, a non-city resident, is being accused of second-degree homicide and the use of a firearm in the commission of murder, according to the Alexandria Police Department. McClinnahan is now in custody of the Alexandria Police Department and is being held without bond.

Paint spill contaminates water

An accidental paint spill contaminated waterways around Monticello Park off of Old Dominion Boulevard Saturday morning. The paint spill didn’t impact Alexandria’s water supply. The Alexandria Fire Department is naturally flushing to clean the water.

Alexandria Harmonizers celebrate anniversary

The Alexandria Harmonizers are celebrating their 75th anniversary with a special celebration on Saturday at 7 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall. The event will feature performances from the Alexandria Harmonizers’ new ensemble, Metro Voices, as well as gold medal-winning quartets Max Q and Ringmasters. Tickets cost $40 for general admission, $20 for students and youth under 18, and $150 for premier seating. Those interested can purchase tickets at eventbrite.com/this-is-why-we-sing-75th-anniversary-celebration-tickets.

Run Geek Run set for September 24

Ironistic is hosting the 16th annual Run Geek Run 5k race on September 24 at 8:30 a.m. in Del Ray. The first annual 1-Mile fun run is also taking place at the same time. Registration for both races is now open. Both races will start at Main Line Boulevard and run through Potomac Avenue. All residents will receive a free t-shirt, and each age range winner for the 5k race will receive an award. Sponsor money from the race will go to Move2Learn, an organization that helps serve Alexandria Public Schools. Parking for both races is available at George Washington Middle School.

Historic Alexandria Homes Tour returns

The 81st Historic Alexandria Homes Tour returns September 23 in Old Town. The Twig, the Junior Auxiliary of Inova Alexandria Hospital, is hosting the tour and will allow participants to explore historic houses in Alexandria, such as the Green House, which belonged to one of Alexandria’s most historic families. Tickets cost $45, and can be purchased at thetwig.org/homes-tour.

Rosamarino D’Italia to reopen Friday

Rosamarino D’Italia restaurant is reopening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, which will take place Friday at 4 p.m. at 1905 Mt. Vernon Ave. All local residents and officials are welcome to attend the ceremony.
“On average, we were catching like eight and nine or sometimes 10 rats [per month],” Safi said.

A local pastor – who requested anonymity due to his church working directly with Morgan Properties-owned apartments – said he’s familiar with an instance of a child being bitten by a rat.

“When my alarm bells went off was when someone said, ‘The rat bit the child in the middle of the night,’” the pastor said.

Vice Mayor Amy Jackson expressed concern over the conditions at these apartment complexes.

“Health and safety are the city’s top concern and no human being should live in filth and squalor all the while paying exorbitant rents,” Jackson said in an email to the Times. “We will continue to work closely with property management and address inhumane issues in this community.”

For this story, the Times spoke with three Afghan refugees, three community members who volunteer time helping the Afghan families, the head of Lutheran Social Services in Northern Virginia, two members of Alexandria’s City Council and a city code enforcement official. We also reached out twice to three different people in property management at Morgan Properties, but received no response.

The escape

In Afghanistan, Safi worked directly for the country’s national security advisor in the pro-U.S. government that gave way to Taliban control upon the withdrawal of American troops – which made Safi a target.

 “[The Taliban] somehow knew me and also my boss, the national security advisor of Afghanistan. He had signed the BSA, the bilateral security agreement with the States, so he was a prime target, and anyone close to him was a prime target,” Safi said.

Safi said on several occasions he was traveling with his boss when their convoy was attacked.

“I would usually travel with him to his meetings, to all his travels outside Afghanistan. But we were lucky that we did not get hurt,” Safi said. “And the day [the Taliban] took over, I had to leave my house. I had to be in hiding for a month.”

Safi and his family were able to escape Afghanistan during the U.S. evacuation, as did the other families interviewed for this article.

Daniel Altman, an organizer with Resettling Afghan Families Together, or NoVA RAFT, said the United States has a debt to these refugees who risked their lives aiding the U.S. in Afghanistan.

“I think it’s important to remember that many of these families are the very people who served the U.S. government in Afghanistan. And they’ve been brought here. The United States [needs] to help create for them a safe and dignified future,” Altman said.

The resettlement

With the United States being an ally to Afghanistan, many refugees entered the country via the nation’s capital. Lutheran Social Services National Capital Area was swamped with refugees and

ADOPTABLE PET OF THE WEEK

PHOTO/WAFIR SALIH

An entryway into Lynbrook Apartments.

PHOTO/WAFIR SALIH

Lynbrook is one of five apartment complexes managed by Morgan Properties in Alexandria.

PHOTO/WAFIR SALIH

AFGHAN REFUGEES FROM | 1

Sarah is an 8-month-old puppy weighing about 45 pounds. She is a beautiful, healthy dog. She’s an energetic mixture of a variety of breeds, and enjoys spending time outdoors with our volunteers. Sarah is a love-bug and hopes her new human will appreciate her affection. She is a fun companion!

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were tasked with the near-impossible job of finding affordable and dignified housing in the area on a budget.

“We went from serving about 500 people a year to 500 people a month literally overnight,” Kristyn Peck, CEO of LSSNCA said.

LSSNCA is an esteemed resettlement agency that has worked with refugees for more than 100 years. It not only works with refugees through the resettlement process, it also assists them in the job process and acclimation to the United States. LSSNCA receives funding from both states and the federal government to provide help for the basic needs of new refugees.

The refugees were also serviced by NoVA RAFT, a community-based organization that works with the refugees. The organization delivers donated furniture and helps the newly relocated families move into their new apartments. It also helps acclimate the Afghans and their children through volunteer-run ESL classes and summer camps.

Because we have been working in the community, we have a really good sense of the various challenges that families face, ranging from challenges in school, health challenges, employment challenges and, most recently, challenges with their living conditions,” Altman said.

As refugees kept flooding in, LSSNCA was working to put the Afghan refugees in an ideal area: one near public transportation, within a good school district and inexpensive, all while keeping Afghan community members somewhat together. It was difficult to say the least, especially when the refugees arrived with just the clothes on their backs – and no prior credit record.

The conditions
Morgan Properties’ official website touts how it provides “superior housing and services to exceed every expectation,” in addition to exceptional and unparalleled customer service. The accounts from the many Afghan refugees living in their buildings paint a vastly different picture.

“There are mice and rats in almost every apartment. Some of the apartments have bugs, maybe bed bugs,” a volunteer working with NoVA RAFT said.

Yasmine, another Afghan refugee who is using only her first name in this story for safety reasons, moved into her apartment on Beuregard Street with her large extended family when she arrived in the United States.

“In this apartment there’s a large mess.... There were always a lot of mice,” Yasmine said.

According to some residents, the problems were evident from move-in day, but the
infestation grew to unbearable levels this past spring.

The local pastor said notices were posted alerting other tenants of the infestations in their neighbor’s apartments. At first, the pastor said he was telling the refugees to contact management about the issues.

“We thought it was pretty run of the mill because you get mice sometimes,” the local pastor said....However the reports just kept coming in and in and in and it wasn’t just these families – we started hearing the reports through RAFT. Other families, even in other apartment complexes, were experiencing this too.”

Altman said it was when RAFT volunteers were tutoring families during the summer that they realized the extent of the problem.

“As we were spending more time with the families and with the kids we ... started to ask questions. We learned that it was a fairly widespread problem,” Altman said.

It was a game changer for the refugees’ advocates when they realized many of these infestations were actually rats and not mice.

“What we actually found out was that the Dari word for mouse and rat is the same,” the pastor said in reference to many of the Afghans’ native language. “When they were saying, ‘We have a mouse,’ we were hearing, ‘Oh, they just have a little field mouse,’ but no, that was not the case. [In many instances] it was rats.”

The rodents are also increasingly brazen.

“I saw a video this morning of a family after dinner, lights out, and they’re sitting in a chair in their living room filming like what some six mice running around in the middle of the day,” the pastor said.
“The mice own that apartment. They don’t care about the people. It’s the mice house.”

The refugees and their advocates have gone public with their situation because the problem has not been solved and living conditions in some instances are unbearable.

“Everyone has sought help,” the local pastor said. “Everyone has gone to the property manager. We wouldn’t have been in this position if the families hadn’t spoken up. I mean they are just beside themselves. Like, they have little babies. I saw one video of a rat just crawling across the top of a crib.”

Islam Mowahidi, a 17-year-old refugee, said the response from Morgan Properties has been inadequate.

“We saw a lot of mice in the house and we reported it to the leasing office and submitted it through the online account and they came to the apartment and did inspections,” Mowahidi said. “They came many times and brought traps and all that but that didn’t help us at all. And the mice just kept coming back more and more.”

Morgan Properties’ response

Everyone the Times interviewed said Morgan Properties did respond to complaints about the infestations. But the refugees and their advocates, along with Alexandria City Councilor Alyia Gaskins and Vice Mayor Amy Jackson, all told the Times that this response has been inadequate.

“They say, ‘We’re coming. We’ll fix it.’ But they do not care. They do not fix it,” Yasmine said. “We knew another house who had the same thing too. This was not just a ‘My apartment’ problem.”

The pastor concurred Morgan Properties did respond to complaints about infestations.

“To their credit – I’m trying to be generous – Morgan Properties will send people in. It’s just not working. It’s like putting Band-Aids on it,” the pastor said.

Safi said he was met with a condescending attitude from his on-site property manager when he raised complaints about the infestation.

“Bedbugs, rats, and then the behavior or the attitude you get from the leasing office. They show you an attitude in a way that, because you do not have a credit, and the resettlement agency has given us a letter, somehow they are doing a pity on you and they have given you this apartment which you are not deserving,” Safi said. “You just have to accept that.”

Safi also said the remediation efforts by Morgan Properties were insufficient.

“Every time it was the stickers, the traps, but no solid solution for the problem,” Safi said. Altman faulted Morgan Properties’ results but said they...
Morgan Properties has been accused of their apartments providing poor living conditions. An article on the Whitney, LLP – a consumer rights law firm – website reads in part:

“Baltimore news station WBAL featured two of Whitney, LLP’s clients, and attorney Daniel Whitney, Jr., on WBAL for recovering legal settlements for clients forced to live with bed bugs, mice and roaches. Both of our clients lived in apartment complexes owned and operated by Morgan Properties, the Columbia Pointe Apartments in Columbia, MD, and the Glen Ridge Apartments in Glen Burnie, MD.”

Morgan Properties buildings at Lynbrook and Brookdale in Alexandria also previously had numerous complaints against them regarding living conditions in the summer of 2021, per an article in Annandale Today. Morgan Properties did not respond to complaints against them.

“The exterminators came two or three times. … When they came, they would just do an inspection, but honestly nothing really to solve the problem,” Mowahidi said.

Councilor Alyia Gaskins said property managers need to work toward a solution that addresses the whole property.

“Property managers will come in. They’ll lay down traps. They’ll put in sticky tape, so forth, and they’ll call it case closed,” Gaskins said. “If your neighbor also has rodents, if your upstairs neighbors got rodents, downstairs neighbor – if it’s happening in multiple different apartments, then just putting traps in one is not enough to solve the issue. There’s like a whole building or a whole property approach that needs to be addressed.”

The pastor was more direct in his criticism of Morgan Properties’ response to the infestations.

“My impression of the situation is that they want to do the least amount they possibly can to fix the problem and spend the least amount possible,” the pastor said. “I’m coming at this from a moral position. ... Someone needs to say to these folks, ‘You are not treating these humans like humans,’ and if that means closing an entire apartment complex to fix these apartments, then you do that.”

This is also not the first time Morgan Properties has been accused of their apartments providing poor living conditions.

1. When were you first made aware of the rodent and bed bug infestations affecting the Afghan refugee residents?
2. What proactive measures have been taken by Morgan Properties to address these concerns?
3. What are your future plans to ensure such issues are prevented or promptly addressed?
4. A former resident mentioned how Willow Run charges utilities by billing an entire floor collectively. This means that if one resident conserves electricity and water while their neighbor uses them more extensively, both residents receive an equal charge. Can you provide clarity on this billing approach and the rationale behind it?

The city’s response

Part of the issue with ongoing infestations – like those at several of the Morgan Properties buildings – is the City of Alexandria only does inspections once every four years unless it receives a complaint. City Code Administrator Gregg Fields said inspection of many Morgan Properties owned buildings was coming due this year.

“We go in and we do an inspection. If everything looks good they get a certificate for four years where we don’t come back,” Fields said. “But if things are wrong, we’ll come back within 30 days depending on the situation. If there’s a real serious situation, then we’ll come back quickly. And
Should you save for college or retirement?
BY CATHIE ERICSON AND AUBREY ROSSER

The cost of college is nothing less than daunting. And for parents who have been watching the price tag increase every year and hearing about crushing student debt loads, it’s led to a serious financial planning dilemma: Should you save for college or your retirement?

Financial planning is difficult because there are so many competing priorities.

And yet, the costs of retirement can seem equally overwhelming. While it’s not an all-or-nothing proposition, there is a clear answer from an objective financial planning standpoint: You should prioritize saving for retirement over college.

Why prioritize saving for retirement?

There are no loans for retirement

When you save for college over retirement, you may give your children the gift of no debt, yet still burden them in the future because there aren’t loans to pay for your retirement. It’s akin to the announcement they make on airplanes about putting your oxygen mask on prior to your children’s masks: If you pay for their education at the expense of your retirement, they may end up having to support you in the future.

By contrast, when it comes to paying for college, your children will have a myriad options open to them. They can work, apply for grants and scholarships and take out loans. In addition, they can focus on finding an excellent school that’s still affordable.

Your retirement timeline might not unfold as anticipated

Retirement can seem much farther away than your child’s college years because you’re watching them grow up before your eyes. That can alter your perspective and make saving for college appear more important. It’s hard to prioritize something that’s so far off and you might think you have plenty of time to supercharge your savings during your last few working years.

If you were planning on having an extra few years to grow your nest egg, it ends up being an even larger blow. Not only are you no longer contributing, but now you’re simultaneously depleting your account so that it’s not seeing market gains. And if health-related concerns cut your earning years short, you’ll also have medical expenses to cope with.

The earlier you start saving, the more time your money will have to grow and the better prepared you will be for the unexpected.

It’s a valuable financial lesson for your children

While you might like to send your kids off to school without any financial worries, talking to them about paying for college could be a beneficial lesson for them. In fact, some parents make the deliberate decision that their child will have to contribute to a certain percentage of their education. This can be the motivation your child needs to get good grades to qualify for scholarships that lower the amount they will ultimately have to contribute themselves.

If they do have to take out loans, that process can serve as a valuable lesson about how debt works. It’s also more likely to make them factor cost into their decision about which schools they want to attend.

Weber says that putting away money can also instill a savings mindset in your kids. If you’re forgoing a lavish vacation to bulk up your account, tell them why.

The good news is you can save for college and retirement. For those who are light in education savings, think of other ways to fund college, such as choosing a more affordable school, aggressively pursuing scholarships and having your child work part-time during their college years.

Still, you should make sure you have a plan for your retirement savings in place first. A financial advisor can help you ensure you’re doing the right things for your retirement and then help add college savings into your financial plan.

With good financial planning, you can likely manage to save for both goals.

The writers are wealth management advisors with Northwestern Mutual. Aubrey Rosser has been recognized by Forbes as one of the top financial security professionals in Virginia.
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AFGHAN REFUGEES


AFGHAN REFUGEES FROM | 9

then they’ll get those certifica-
tes,” Fields said.

Alexandria’s Afghan ref-
ugees have sought help from
their friends at NoVa RAFT, the
social workers at LSSNCA and
the management company, Mor-
gan Properties, but noth-
ing was stopping this ongoing
unsanitary situation. In late
April, a resident finally went to
the City of Alexandria for help.

According to Fields, the city
responded to this complaint
and baited the sewers near the
buildings, and, per the records
of that baiting, the city claims
the infestation is going down,
data that seems contradictory
to what current and former
Afghan residents of Morgan
Properties facilities and their
advocates told us for this story.

On another occasion, a vol-
unteer contacted the Alexan-
dria Health Department after
the child was bit by the rat and
visited an urgent care center.

“One of our volunteers did
contact the city health depart-
ment, so I believe there should
be a record of it ... I also be-
lieve there was one trip to ur-
gen care about the rat bite
and I believe urgent care said
they were required to report
that as well. That was earlier in
the summer. I just know some-
one at the health department
is aware. Who knows what they
did with it. I have no idea,” the
pastor said.

An article from ALXnow in
July 2021, a month before the
U.S. withdrawal from Afghani-
stan that precipitated this wave
of refugees, indicated the City
of Alexandria became involved
with Morgan Properties after
receiving complaints from sev-
eral tenants at Brookdale about
“unsanitary conditions” such
as “nests of rats, filthy water
flowing into a bathtub, mold
and holes in the wall.”

Gaskins said one obstacle
is housing insecurity, a lack
of other options, for the fam-
ilies involved.

“I’ll tell you, when I first
found out about it, a situation
at Morgan Properties, I went
back to the city. I reported it
right away. And then I had the
family actually tell me, they’re
like, ‘No, no, no, no. We do
not want you to do that.’ For
some of those very concerned,
they’re like, ‘We’d rather live
here and be able to have a roof
over our head than to be wor-
rried about not being here or to
be homeless.’” Gaskins said.

A path forward?

In a few instances, fami-
ilies in untenable living con-
ditions have been moved to a
different apartment. LSSNCA
moved at least one family upon
hearing complaints.

“If we are alerted to an is-
sue, we work with the family
and property management to
reconcile. If it is not addressed,
we offer to move the program
participant to another loca-
tion,” Peck said.

However, many other suf-
ferring refugees and other res-
idents of these properties have
not had that option.

“My question is, as soon as
we get them out of there, who
is going into that apartment?
Even if it’s not an Afghan fam-
ily, it’s someone else,” the pas-
tor said.

Many of the residents in
these buildings have no other
options but to live with
the rodents.

“It’s important to under-
stand that a lot of these fami-
dies don’t have anywhere to go.

Given their situation, they just
recently arrived in the United
States, a lot of them are unem-
ployed. They don’t have credit
yet. They’re not able to go any-
where. They are basically stuck
there. That’s all the more rea-
son to really advocate for
them,” Altman said.

Altman said the optimal
outcome is for Morgan Props-
ties to take a comprehen-
sive approach to eliminating
the infestations.

“I think the best case sce-
ario is that ... [Morgan Prop-
terties] be responsive and that
they develop a comprehensive
plan that does effectively elim-
inate the vermin from their
apartments,” Altman said.

“And that everybody else who
works with these families does
everything possible to hold the
property management compa-
nies accountable.”

The pastor said it’s past
time for a resolution to the
situation.

“This has gone on long
enough. It’s not just a clean-
ing one apartment issue. It’s a
human rights issue. It’s a moral
issue,” the pastor said. “If they
weren’t Afghan refugees, would
this be happening to them?”

Yasmine was at a loss to say
anything good about her time
so far in America.

“Nothing, because I lived
there.”
ACHS and Bishop Ireton both aim for greater gridiron success in 2023
BY JIM MCGRATH
Two of Alexandria’s four high school football teams began regular season play in late August, with Alexandria City High School and Bishop Ireton taking to the gridiron for away games on August 25.

The teams met with decidedly different results, as BI routed Jackson-Reed High School 38-0, while ACHS was on the losing end of a 28-3 contest at Centerville High School.

Both teams played again last week, with ACHS dropping its home opener in a contest against Colonial Forge on August 31, by a score of 49-13. BI also lost its second game on the road to Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in a 19-13 nailbiter.

ACHS
Mascot – Titans
Region/District – 6C Patriot
Coach: Rodney Hughey
2022 record: 5-6

Now in his second season as the Titans head coach, Rodney Hughey aims to take his team to the next level. After a 5-6 season in 2022, which ended with a brief playoff appearance, Hughey is focused on eight players to help his team improve.

“[The offense] has the potential to do very well this season,” Hughey said. He pointed to the offensive line as one of the Titans’ strengths.

Specifically, Hughey will count on Soufiane Khaldi as the anchor of the unit, a returning starter and 6’2”, 300-pound junior. Khaldi is a returning starter who his coach believes possesses Division I talent. He will be joined by two seniors, Nehemiah Goode (6’, 280 pounds) and Ryan Ringel (5’11”, 225 pounds) and junior James Kelly (6’1”, 240 pounds), all of whom Hughey views as college prospects.

While the line is sturdy, the coach has expressed concern for the experience level at other positions.

“We have a lack of experience at our skill positions,” Hughey added.

The cupboard is not bare, however, for one of Virginia’s largest high schools. Hughey highlighted the team’s dedication to its off-season conditioning program as a potential harbinger of success, though the true test will come between the lines.

“A lot of guys showed up – seniors and juniors. ... We need to see these guys in battle,” Hughey said.

Hughey had selected a quarterback before the season opening loss to Centreville, but may continue to experiment. He said he feels set at the running back position, with senior Selvin Orsorto (5’9”, 215 pounds) and junior Chase McKnight (5’9”, 180 pounds), two potential collegiate players with McKnight possessing the talent to play Football Championship Subdivision, which used to be known as Division I-AA.

The Titans also have a strong pair of receivers in seniors Garrett Graf (5’9”, 185 pounds) and CJ Washington (6’, 175 pounds).

The same eight players will be highlighted on defense, with the offensive line switching to defense, joined by Orsorto. Graf and McKnight will play linebacker, and Washington, another FCS level talent, moving to defensive back.

The Titans’ schedule does not get easier. The team will host Forest Park, a team that won five of its last six regular 2022 season games, before moving on to a tough Patriot District schedule.

ACHS schedule
8/25 – at Centreville L, 28-3
8/31 – Colonial Forge L, 31-8

Titans, Cardinals looking to make gains

The 2023 Cardinals varsity football team with coach Gary Wortham.
FOOTBALL

Bishop Ireton

Mascot – Cardinals

Conference – WCAC South & VISAA Div. 1
Coach: Gary Wortham Sr.
2022 record: 1-9

“This is the kind of score we can get behind,” a Tweet from an Ireton fan read, after the team’s 38-0 season opener win over Jackson-Reed of D.C.

This looks to be a breakthrough year for the Cardinals, who have suffered through a pair of 1-9 seasons, but are aiming much higher in 2023.

“We like the way our schedule is set up,” Cardinals coach Gary Wortham said. “We needed to get some games off.”

Competing in the WCAC South, Ireton already has to face rivals O’Connell and Paul VI, along with Archbishop Carroll, a legitimate DMV Top-20 squad, and an improving St. Mary’s Ryken.

Wortham went outside of the state to find several opponents, including Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. John’s Catholic Prep, both from Maryland. St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School remains on the schedule and Annandale has been added to the docket of games.

In preseason, Ireton held its own against defending Liberty District champion Yorktown, and topped Kellam, a mid-level VHSL Class 5 team from Virginia Beach.

“Now we have a compatible, competitive schedule,” receivers coach Chris Gilliland, himself an Ireton graduate and football alumnus, said.

Aaron Rocke (5’11”, 180 pounds) opened the scoring in BI’s opening win at Jackson-Reed with a 92-yard kickoff return for a touchdown. Rocke, who plays running back and wide receiver, scored a second time as he hauled in a 23-yard scoring pass from Omar Diallo (6’, 185 pounds).

The Ireton offense, which features the Navy triple option, will be focused on Diallo, who keeps many plays open for Omar Diallo with his legwork. The speedy QB ran for 151 yards and three touchdowns – one for 76 yards – against Jackson-Reed, while completing eight of 11 passes for 62 yards.

“We executed great,” Diallo, who returned as the starting QB, said. “It has really worked, and we are better than last year.”

“The triple option opens everything. We get a lot of plays in the open field,” Rocke added.

Wortham explained the reasoning behind changing the formation, crediting his quarterback Diallo – who is beginning to attract attention from colleges – for having the speed to work different options.

“We just wanted to add a new element to our game,” Wortham said. “(Running the option) shows off things that Omar can do as the quarterback.”

The Cardinal group is smaller than last year, but faster all-around. They’re also young, with C/DT Matt Foley (5’11”, 235 pounds) and RB/MLB Joseph Hardy (5’8”, 205 pounds) among the few seniors. Other Cardinals to keep an eye on are linemen Cam Stanard (6’3”, 220 pounds), sophomore receiver Nick Milewski (6’3”, 185 pounds), junior G/DE Aidan Connor (6’, 220 pounds), CB/WR Stephen Ntambwe (6’, 170 pounds), and RB Trey Jones (6’, 190 pounds).

Ireton also has a secret weapon in junior kicker Aidan Gray. In the Yorktown scrimmage, Gray booted a 47-yard field goal that cleared the uprights with five yards to spare.

Now it is a matter of patience and timing according to Wortham, who won the Occoquan Region Class 6B championship at his previous job at Woodbridge High.

“Our guys just have to trust the process,” Wortham said.

BI schedule

8/25 – at Jackson-Reed (DC)
W 38-0

9/1 – at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (MD)
L, 19-13

9/15 – at St. Stephen’s/ St. Agnes

9/23 – St. John’s Catholic Prep (MD)

9/25 – at Annandale

9/29 – at Archbishop Carroll (DC)

10/4 – at St. John Paul the Great

10/11 – Paul VI

10/28 – at O’Connell

11/4 – St. Mary’s Ryken

Next week’s Times will contain football previews for St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School and Episcopal High School, which began their seasons after ACHS and BI.
Five tips for keeping pets pest-free

BY FAMILY FEATURES

Naturally curious, many pets sniff and explore other animals and objects, unaware they may expose themselves to potentially harmful parasites and conditions. According to the Companion Animal Parasite Council, one in 100 dogs tested positive for heartworm in 2022, and more than one in four indoor cats were positive for heartworm infection.

External parasites – including fleas, ticks and mites found outdoors or on other animals – and internal parasites such as heartworms, roundworms, tapeworms, hookworms and whipworms can wreak havoc on your pet’s health and well-being. These parasites can feed on dogs and cats, causing health issues that range from minor skin irritation to severe organ damage and even death if left untreated. Some parasites can also be contracted by people, making diagnosis and prevention even more important.

Though prevention is the best approach, treatment is sometimes required. Intervention is most effective when started immediately after a parasite is detected. Work with your veterinarian to tailor a program specific to your dog or cat’s breed, age, behaviors and environmental factors, and consider these tips from the experts at VCA Animal Hospitals, which has more than 1,000 locations across North America that cared for more than 4 million pets last year, to help prevent parasites in your pets.

Provide preventative medications

Based on their specific risk factors, dogs and cats should be on year-round parasite control programs that treat infections such as heartworms, intestinal parasites, fleas, ticks and more. Parasite prevention medication options range from topical to injectable and oral.

Visit the vet annually

Yearly visits allow your veterinarian to take note of changes in your pet’s health and alter his or her parasite control program as necessary. Your vet can tell you which parasites to watch for based on your location, how these parasites can be transmitted and which preventative products are most appropriate. Additionally, newer, more accurate parasite tests can also identify parasite strains that may affect people and pets. Remember, dogs and cats age faster than humans, so annual exams with diagnostic testing are the equivalent of humans visiting the doctor every 4 to 5 years.

Watch for warning signs of parasites

Some pets infected with a parasite don’t show any signs of illness. However, common signs of infection include diarrhea, vomiting, loss of appetite or blood in your pet’s stools. Coughing or difficulty breathing may also accompany heartworms. Also consult your veterinarian if your pet excessively scratches, chews or licks his or her coat or ears, or persistently shakes his or her head. Seeing your vet as soon as possible can get your pet treatment and help prevent spreading the parasite to other animals. Puppies and kittens are especially at risk for parasites since most contract them from their mothers while nursing and their small size puts them at greater risk for severe illness.

Groom regularly

To reduce the risk of coat contamination and increase the likelihood of catching fleas, ticks and coat abnormalities quickly, be sure to periodically groom your pet, or have him or her professionally groomed. It is particularly important to inspect your dog or cat after playing outside or with other pets.

Clean up after your pet

Since most intestinal parasites spread through contact with feces, it’s crucial to dispose of any waste in your yard or pet’s litter box within 24 hours to avoid exposure and reduce the risk of environmental parasite contamination. A contaminated yard can be a source of exposure for many months as parasites can live in the soil for extended periods of time.

Find more tips for parasite prevention and treatment at VCAhospitals.com.
Choose specific seeds to lure your bird of choice to your deck, yard or garden

BY BRANDPOINT

While almost all bird seed may look pretty much the same to you, it doesn’t to the birds you’re feeding. Knowing what kinds of seeds different birds like can help you attract a variety of fine feathered friends to your feeders.

Carefully choosing which seeds to put in your bird feeder could enable you to establish havens for different types of birds in various points in your yard or garden. So whether you have one feeder hanging from a back deck or multiple feeders throughout a large garden space, you can exercise some control over the types of bird you feed – and are thus able to observe.

Consider these popular seed types and the common back yard birds they attract.

**Sunflower** – Black sunflower seeds attract blue jays, goldfinches, woodpeckers, purple finches, chickadees, titmice and nuthatches. Striped sunflower seeds appeal to chickadees, doves, grosbeaks, northern cardinals, nuthatches, titmice and woodpeckers. Sunflower hearts – also known as “hulled sunflower” and “sunflower chips” – attract chickadees, common redpolls, juncos, doves, finches, goldfinches, grosbeaks, nuthatches, pine siskins, titmice and woodpeckers.

**Nyjer** – These lightweight, tiny seeds are a favorite of goldfinches. Put nyjer seeds in a hanging feeder with tiny holes so the small seeds won’t get blown away. Nyjer also attracts redpolls, juncos, doves, indigo bunting and pine siskin.

**Safflower** – These white seeds are slightly smaller than black sunflower seeds. Because they are bitter, grackles, blue jays, starlings – and squirrels – don’t like them. However, they do attract doves, purple finches, chickadees, titmice and downy woodpeckers.

**White millet** – Good for scattering on the ground, white
millet attracts ground feeders such as juncos, sparrows, indigo buntings, towhees and mourning doves.

**Cracked corn** – Popular with ground feeders, cracked corn appeals to doves, crows, jays, sparrows, juncos and towhees. Avoid getting finely cracked corn as it’s vulnerable to rot and can quickly turn to mush.

When choosing a bird seed mix, pay attention to the ingredients list on the package. Bird seed is required by law to list ingredients in order of content. Some cheaper mixes have filler seeds such as wheat, red milo, red millet or “assorted grain products.” Most backyard birds won’t eat those, and your seed mix could end up wasted on the ground.

Learn more about making your back yard an oasis for birds of all kinds at eLiving today.com.

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**HOME OF THE WEEK**

Tucked away on a tranquil cul-de-sac, this home features timeless elegance and modern upgrades. The exterior charm immediately captures your attention and creates a welcoming and sophisticated first impression. Step inside, and you’ll be greeted by an exquisite foyer featuring a grand staircase.

The renovated kitchen is a culinary enthusiast’s dream. Every detail has been carefully considered. Soft-close cabinetry, stunning granite countertops, herringbone style backsplash and top-of-the-line stainless steel appliances. Adjacent to the kitchen, the screened-porch beckons with cathedral, oak beadboard ceilings and skylights, transporting you to a serene ambiance. Steps lead you down to the sprawling back deck.

**Gorgeous Seminary Hill home**

Elegance and functionality continue on the main level, featuring formal living and dining rooms. Tucked away at the rear of the home, a study with floor-to-ceiling built-ins ensures you can stay focused and productive. For added convenience, a 3-level elevator stands ready to assist you throughout the home.

Venture upstairs to discover four spacious bedrooms, including the indulgent owner’s suite. The lower level is a haven for rec and entertainment, boasting a game room with fireplace and convenient walkout access to the back deck. For those who enjoy hosting, a well-appointed wet bar with a beverage chiller sets the stage for unforgettable social experiences.

Nestled just off Seminary Road and adjacent to the Inova Alexandria Hospital Campus, this home offers a prime location with easy access to I-395 & Old Town, making commuting a breeze and ensuring you’re never far from all the delights Alexandria has to offer.

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**AT A GLANCE**

**Address:**
1109 N. Gaillard St.,
Alexandria 22304

**Neighborhood:**
Seminary Hill

**Price:** $1,750,000

**Square feet:** 5,594;
.43 acre lot

**Bedrooms:** 4

**Bathrooms:** 4 full, 1 half

**Year built:** 1964

Major renovation 2021

**Contact:** Elizabeth Lucchesi
Realtor®, VA & DC
LizLuke Team of Long & Foster

LIZLUKE.COM
703-868-5676
Editorial

Live up to our ideal

“Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

So reads the last stanza of The New Colossus by Emma Lazarus, which is inscribed on a plaque inside the Statue of Liberty in Upper New York Bay.

Close to Ellis Island, where more than 12 million immigrants arrived in the United States, the statue famously welcomes those seeking to start new lives in this country.

Juxtapose that ideal with the reality related in today’s page 1 story “From machine gun belts to bed bug welts” about the living conditions of many of the more than 1,000 Afghan refugees who have settled in Alexandria since the U.S. military pullout from that country more than two years ago.

The images of that chaotic exodus are unforgettable: a rescue plane packed with people of all ages; desperate Afghans clinging to – and some falling to their deaths from – the outside of a plane; Afghans crushed trying to enter the Kabul airport or killed, along with U.S. soldiers, in an explosion at its gates.

Virtually every family had a member who assisted the United States in some way during its occupation of Afghanistan following Osama bin Laden’s use of that country as a base from which to launch the September 11 attacks – which took place 22 years ago next week. Most of those who made it out left with nothing more than the clothes they wore.

These people and their families were at risk of being retaliated against, tortured or killed at the hands of the Taliban if they had stayed. Sadly, not everyone who helped the U.S. made it out.

It’s difficult to imagine a group of people who were more deserving of refuge on our shores.

Yes, those who reached the U.S., including the people depicted in the Times story, are fortunate to be here. A rat or bed bug bite certainly isn’t as bad as facing the Taliban.

But what does it say about us, and the ideal expressed in the Statue of Liberty and Lazarus’ poem, that we bring refugees here and subject them to these conditions?

It’s also important to note that, despite our investigation, we don’t believe that any of what we described in the story was deliberate.

Certainly Lutheran Social Services, which does great good around the world, has helped many refugees over many years relocate to Northern Virginia. Their CEO strongly implied in an interview with the Times that their options for placing refugees are limited.

The organization Resettling Afghan Families Together – which has helped many Afghan families locate furniture for their new homes, and has tutored them and helped them find jobs – is a remarkable nonprofit with a core cadre of dedicated volunteers.

And even Morgan Properties, which owns a series of rodent and bedbug infested buildings in Alexandria, is still not a villain. Refugees come to this country without credit ratings or money in hand and often without jobs. Meeting the refugees’ basic need for shelter by taking a risk on the newcomers’ ability to pay rent is actually noble in its intent.

However, the discrepancy between Morgan Properties’ self-congratulatory language on their website and the reality within several of their Alexandria buildings would be laughable if it weren’t so repugnant.

It’s ultimately up to the city’s code enforcement staff, and the Alexandria Health Department, to hold Morgan Properties accountable. While getting rid of rodent and bug infestations, particularly in large buildings, is difficult, it’s not impossible.

Frequent inspections and strict fines should compel the expensive, ongoing effort necessary to eliminate these infestations. We owe that assistance to the people who aided us in Afghanistan during our country’s 20 long years there.

Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson

Letters

Car tax burden shifting

To the editor:

Last year I purchased a small and unexciting, albeit new, Hyundai for my family. I was shocked upon opening this year’s car tax bill and, after talking with neighbors, it seems I’m not alone. For yet another fiscal year City Council has cut Personal Property Tax Relief for cars valued over $25,000. These cars receive just 14% relief on the first $20,000 of assessed value, down from 39% for this same bracket only seven years ago.

And while the city steadily increases the total taxes owed by vehicles in this tier, the tier’s dollar threshold has not been adjusted one penny. For the city, it’s a lucrative sleight of hand: they reduce only the top-tier relief percentage to allow for popular “Tax the Rich” messaging, while in practice, more and more lower-income households find themselves pushed into this bracket as car prices rise naturally over time.

Based on inflation alone, the top bracket should begin with assessed values over $35,000 by now. Absent this change, even the cheapest minivan on the market today is sorted into this uppermost tier that you might have assumed is reserved for luxury vehicles – and it was, once upon a time.

You’ll have to forgive residents who follow the city’s strong financial incentive to hang onto gas-guzzling clunkers as more efficient family haulers find themselves in the same tax category as Rolls Royce and Bentley.

Meanwhile, consider this an inconvenient reminder that we’re still failing to meet federal ozone air quality standards established in 2015, in large part due to older, dirtier models still on the road.

-Jason Muller, Alexandria
Letters

A solution to density dilemma

To the editor:

Two points. First, whether it’s with more people, cars, buildings or all the above, there’s a limit to how many of each that can be placed into the 15 square miles constituting Alexandria.

Second, density does not create affordability, especially at a time when everything is evermore costly, notably the cost of money and building materials.

Yet much can be lost, charm especially, to current Alexandrians if building heights are increased and if single-family neighborhoods – which constitute roughly 20% of Alexandria – are destroyed to allow more housing regardless of whom the accommodations are intended.

It’s hard to attribute a value to charm but there is a perverse relationship between our density and our taxes: as the former increases so does the latter, thereby making the cost of living more expensive for everyone, including rents for affordable housing.

But there is a compromise where more affordable housing can be created without increasing building heights or by destroying neighborhoods of single family homes with duplexes and triplexes.

The compromise requires the city to provide Can’t Say No enticements to owners of office buildings to convert their empty offices into affordable housing.

Yes, this trade-off will increase human and vehicular density and taxes, but at least will not lead to higher buildings or to the impetus to build multifamily housing in single family neighborhoods.

To enable this trade off, Density Champions need to help beleaguered owners of near-empty office buildings convert them into housing.

-Jimm Roberts, Alexandria

Density isn’t a bad word

To the editor:

It is objectively true that Alexandria is the most densely populated city in Virginia, and older neighborhoods like Old Town and Del Ray are some of the densest parts of the city. It is also true that Alexandria is the best city in Virginia, and our densest neighborhoods are some of our most desirable. That’s clear from the volume of tourists who visit, the high demand for housing and the passionate civic pride and engagement of their citizens.

I therefore struggle to understand why “density” is treated as a pejorative in our civic discourse, when Alexandria itself is a testament to its benefits: walkable neighborhoods, thriving small businesses, better transit and cultural and economic diversity that can only exist with a diversity of housing options. My family chose to put down roots in this city, not despite its density but because of it.

At the August 29 kickoff event for Zoning for Housing, city staff provided a context and justification for the proposed reforms. The crux was this: onerous, exclusionary zoning regulations mean it is no longer legal to build more communities like Old Town or Del Ray. ZFH is a step toward fixing that, and letting Alexandria be Alexandria.

-Trip Hook, Alexandria

“ I therefore struggle to understand why “density” is treated as a pejorative…”

-Trip Hook, resident

About Alexandria

Reversing learning loss

BY MARK EATON

The anticipation, or relief, with the August 21 start of Alexandria City Public Schools classes tends to obscure some important facts. First, while on the whole students are now learning at the same pace they were before the pandemic, overall test scores remain below pre-pandemic levels.

Second, after three years of disrupted learning, the gap between current test scores and pre-pandemic scores is not yet closing for most school districts.

Third, the effects of the pandemic vary widely among student groups but the emerging picture is that students were struggling, particularly those in the primary grades, before the pandemic have even greater post-pandemic disparities and challenges.

These are among the core findings of The Road to Recovery Project, a consortium of education research organizations engaged in a national effort to collect and analyze data about pandemic recovery initiatives and their effectiveness. R2R’s assessment of the progress of post-COVID-19 academic recovery is viewable at caldercenter.org/covid-recovery.

Education performance issues are often seen through the lens of personal experience. However, it is becoming increasingly clear that parents and other stakeholders may not be aware of the extent of pandemic-related learning loss, particularly in the most affected student groups.

Former Alexandria School Board member Dan Goldhaber, director of the Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research and a professor at the University of Washington, sees a disconnect between the empirical student performance data and what opinion surveys show about how most parents think their children are doing in school.

This urgency gap is due primarily to many school systems, including ACPS, grading more leniently as a response to the pandemic’s challenges for students. Grading systems can be subjects of intense debate. Reversing lenient grading practices can be difficult because students and parents sometimes see high grades as an entitlement.

R2R recommends that school systems adopt pandemic recovery initiatives as follows:

“We estimate that making up the remaining recovery gap will take the equivalent of approximately 40 to over 100 hours of high-quality, high-dosage tutoring for the average student, with slightly lower estimates for reading than math. For the hardest-hit districts and students, academic recovery from COVID-19 is likely to require an all-hands-on-deck response for the next several years.”

Assessments of the effectiveness of ACPS’ pandemic recovery initiatives thus far, and those necessary for the future, may vary. However, it seems that two things are inarguably true.

First, the strengthening connection between ACPS and the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium, a nonprofit group which provides one-on-one volunteer reading tutoring to elementary school students, is a positive development. ATC is a key contributor to COVID academic recovery.

According to ATC Executive Director Lisa Jacobs, in the 2023-2024 school year ATC tutors will be in all 14 ACPS elementary schools – up from 12 schools in 2022-2023 – and are projected to serve 255 students, up from 195 students in 2022-2023. Jacobs expects ATC to deploy 300 volunteer tutors – up from 242 in 2022-2023 who are projected to hold about 12,000 tutoring sessions.

Second, Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson and others are exactly right to focus on the findings of the recently released study by the General Assembly’s Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission on how Virginia funds public education. In the August edition of his

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.
Parker-Gray anniversary celebrates Brig. Gen. Leo A. Brooks, Sr.

This year’s annual Parker-Gray School anniversary celebration, the school’s 105th, acknowledges one of the school’s most prominent alumni, retired Brig. Gen. Leo Brooks, Sr. All are welcome to participate in the celebration on Saturday at 3 p.m. at the Nanny J. Lee Centers Kauffman Auditorium. The event is free and open to the public.

Brigadier General Leo A. Brooks, Sr. was born in Alexandria on Aug. 9, 1952. He graduated from Parker-Gray High School in 1970, when education in Virginia was segregated, and from Virginia State University four years later.

Brooks received his commission in the Army in 1954 as a Distinguished Graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He served in Alaska, and two tours in Vietnam during the Vietnam War. During his military career, he earned a master’s degree in financial management from The George Washington University.

Brooks received his commission in the Army Quartermaster Corps as a Distinguished Graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps. His awards include: the Army Distinguished Service Medal; Defense Superior Service Medal; Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters; Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal; Joint Service Commendation Medal; and Army Commendation Medal. In 1984, Brooks retired as a brigadier general because he retired less than three years after promotion to major general.

After retiring from the Army, Brooks accepted the position of city manager of Philadelphia. In 1985, he was involved in the decision to proceed with the raid and bombing of the MOVE organization, a radical group that had established a headquarters on Osage Avenue. The fire that resulted from the use of an improvised incendiary device killed 11 people – including five children – and destroyed 53 buildings, most of them owned by African American families.

Brig. Gen. Leo Brooks Sr.’s sons – Leo Brooks, Jr. and Vincent – also rose to the ranks of generals in the U.S. Army, with Vincent retiring as a full general in 2019, and Leo Brooks, Jr. as a brigadier general. Brooks, Sr.’s nephew Mark Quander also achieved the rank of brigadier general. To date, the Brooks family is the only African American family to have a father and two sons rise to the rank of brigadier general or higher.

The Alexandria African American Hall of Fame’s website features Brig. Gen. Leo A. Brooks, Sr. and other prominent graduates of Parker-Gray. You can find the website at: alexandriafafricanamericanhalloffame.org/.

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

ACROSS
1 Cosmopolitan feature?
8 Fruit used in some low-voltage batteries
13 "Meh"
17 Not as clear
18 Oozed
20 ___ the fat (chitchat)
21 Person who seeks a flash in the pan
22 Cinema ___ (film style)
23 Strike a (see circled letters)
24 Record
25 "Count on me!"
26 ___ of Insanity ("Princess Bride" locale)
28 Japanese noodles
29 Ryan of "Only Murders in the Building"
30 Rudd of "Only Murders in the Building"
31 Have a Wall St. debut, in slang
32 Bargain ___
33 British singer Rita
34 T-Mobile rival
35 "Backdraft" concern
38 Presto and vivace
40 Scrupled
42 Strike a (see circled letters)
43 Got hitched
44 Heavy, solemn feeling
46 Anthem contraction
47 Elephant married to Celeste
50 Made headway
51 Strike a (see circled letters)
54 Big Island farewell
55 "Jesus Christ Superstar" star
56 "Frozen" princess
57 Say "wink wink, nudge nudge"
58 Verbal pauses
59 Possess
61 Deep chasm
65 Greet a villain
66 Jamaican music genre
67 Star of "The Crow"
68 Condition for which Temple Grandin is a spokesperson
69 Softly hit single
70 Strike a (see circled letters)
71 "Slithy" creature in "Jabberwocky"
72 Orange juice brand
73 Flair or Ocasek
74 Many Zagreb residents
75 ___ gin fizz
76 "Is there more?"
77 Breathe in
78 ___ gin fizz
79 Musical Greek god
80 Way out there, and how
81 Strike a (see circled letters)
82 "Thirtysomething" star
83 Commanders on the front line?
84 Saying few words
85 Angry swarms
86 ___ smear (test for some)
87 Actress Jessica
88 ___ favor
89 ___ of lies
90 Super Bowl highlights, to some
91 Greek goddess of the dawn
92 Place with shakers and flasks
93 Instrument in a jazz combo
94 ___ of lies
95 Minute particle
96 ___ of lies
97 M$GIRELIBELOBIEPATRATETALPESOROTHER
98 SILENTSIGHTSXTRA
99 DEATH NOTICES

ROBERT MERRILL LEE (70), formerly of Alexandria, Aug. 26, 2023
CHESTER MERRITT (89), of Alexandria, Aug. 24, 2023
GEORGE PASPATIS (96), formerly of Alexandria, Aug. 21, 2023
RICHARD PELKEY (89), formerly of Alexandria, Aug. 28, 2023

Solutions from last week

17 ROBERT MERRILL LEE (70), formerly of Alexandria, Aug. 26, 2023
21 CHESTER MERRITT (89), of Alexandria, Aug. 24, 2023
35 GEORGE PASPATIS (96), formerly of Alexandria, Aug. 21, 2023
67 RICHARD PELKEY (89), formerly of Alexandria, Aug. 28, 2023
LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE FAMILY DIVISION OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE

JAKE WILLIAM SPANOIL  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
TYNISHA RENA SPANOIL,  
Defendant.

Case No.: DV23-00341  
Dept. No.: 14

SUMMONS

TO THE DEFENDANT: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. THE COURT MAY DECIDE AGAINST YOU WITHOUT WRITING WITHIN 21 DAYS. READ THE INFORMATION BELOW VERY CAREFULLY.

TO THE DEFENDANT: A civil complaint for divorce without children has been filed by the plaintiff against you for the relief set forth in that document (see complaint).

1. If you wish to defend this lawsuit, you must, within 20 days after this Summons is served on you, exclusive of the day of service, file with this Court a written pleading* in response to this Complaint.
2. Unless you respond, your default will be entered upon application of the plaintiff, and this Court may enter a judgment against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint**, which could result in the taking of money or property or the relief requested in the Complaint.
3. If you wish to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your response may be filed on time.
4. You are required to serve your response upon plaintiff, whose address is 4300 Neil Road, Apt. 60, Reno, NV 89502.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Board of Architectural Review
LEGAL NOTICE OF
A PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held by the Board of Architectural Review on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, room 2400, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 on the following applications:

BAR#2023-00336 OHAD Request for alterations and signage at 924 King Street
Applicant: Frances Valentine

BAR#2023-00229 OHAD Request for alterations and signage at 425 S Washington Street
Applicant: Bloom Tea

BAR#2023-00348 PG Request for alterations at 335 N Patrick Street
Applicant: Christopher Erik Ohsland

Note: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. For reasonable disability accommodations, contact Alicia Chase at alexandria.gov or 703.746.3810, Virginia Relay 711.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Crown Castle is proposing to install three 44-foot telecommunications utility structures located within the public right of way in Alexandria, Fairfax County, Virginia at the following locations: (6123005906) 241 S. Van Dorn Street (38 48 43.99 N, 77 7 59.66 W), (6123005907) Beavergard Street and Armstead Street (38 49 20.00 N, 77 8 42.11 W) and (6123005908) 58 N Ripley Street (38 48 49.27 N, 77 7 35.89 W). The facilities are not expected to be FAA lighted. Crown Castle invites comments from any interested party on the impact of the proposed action on any districts, sites, buildings, structures or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or specific reason the proposed action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Specific information regarding the project is available by contacting Monica Gambino at 724-416-2516 during normal business hours. Comments must be received at 1500 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317, ATTN: Monica Gambino or via telephone at 724-416-2516 within 30 days of the date of this notice. (Ref. EBI Project #6123005906, 6123005907 and 6123005908)

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Classifieds

PART 2: POSTING AND PUBLISHING
LEGAL NOTICE

Partial posting in the legal notice section of your newspaper. Please refer to the instructions provided on page 16.

[Image of classified advertisements]

OFFICE USE ONLY

Full name(s) of owner(s):  
Trading as:  
Address:  
City, State, Zip:  
Telephone:

*Please refer to privacy statement on the bottom of page two regarding personal/tax information.

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

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

[Image of classified advertisements]

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Alicia Chase at alexandria.gov or 703.746.3810, Virginia Relay 711.

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

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Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority
www.abc.virginia.gov/licenses | 804.213.4400 | 7450 Freight Way, Mechanicsville VA 23116 | PO Box 3250, Mechanicsville VA 23116

PART 2: POSTING AND PUBLISHING
LEGAL NOTICE

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

Applicant: Extra Pets LLC  
Trading as:  
License Fee:  
Office Use Only

PART 2: POSTING AND PUBLISHING
LEGAL NOTICE

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

Applicant: Wholly Vino  
Trading as: Wholly Vino  
License Fee:  
Office Use Only

PART 2: POSTING AND PUBLISHING
LEGAL NOTICE

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

Applicant: Christiana Porter  
Trading as:  
License Fee:  
Office Use Only

PUBLIC NOTICE

To all persons claiming an interest in 1994-19” BASS CAT-BASS6638B494, WADE PEAKE will apply to SCDNR for title on watercraft/outboard motor. If you have any claim to the

[Image of classified advertisements]
watercraft/outboard motor, contact SCDNR at (803) 734 - 3699. Upon thirty days after the date of the last advertisement if no claim of interest is made and the watercraft/outboard motor has not been reported stolen, SCDNR shall issue clear title. Case No: 20230320950196.

**POTOMAC WINDOW CLEANING**

Residential window cleaning inside and out. Serving the local area for 35 years. Family owned and operated. (703) 356-4459. Licensed, Bonded, Insured. The Montgomery family thanks you for your interest.

**PRACTICE CLOSURE**

Dr. Benjamin Hopsicker is closing his practice at Alexandria Wellness Center, located at 5901 Kingstowne Village Parkway suite 100 Alexandria VA 22315 effective 1/1/2024. Contact the office at 703-347-7530 no later than 12/15/23 if you would like to obtain or transfer your medical records. After 12/15/23, you may obtain your records from Dr. Ben by contacting him at the email address drbenhopsicker@gmail.com, at which point he will connect with you directly to verify your information. A reasonable fee may be applied for the copy and transfer of records.

**CUSTOM STORAGE SHEDS**

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

**PETS**

Use Happy Jack® Kennel Dip™ as an area spray to control fleas, ticks, stable flies & mosquitoes where they breed. Biodegradable. At Northwest Ace Hardware & Southern States stores. (wwwhappyjackinc.com)

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**September is Hunger Action Month**

Join AARP Virginia in supporting local food banks this September to help feed hungry families during Hunger Action Month. Take action and do your part to help fight food insecurity across the Commonwealth by volunteering, giving, or donating food.

Dial 2-1-1 or visit 211Virginia.org to find a food bank near you.

facebook.com/aarpvirginia @aarpva | aarp.org/va
Your Style is Unique
I'VE GOT YOU COVERED

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BELLE HAVEN
BELLE HAVEN
BELLE HAVEN ON THE GREEN

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FORDS LANDING
BELLE HAVEN

POTOMAC YARD
BELLE HAVEN
BELLE HAVEN
HOLLINDALE

BELLE HAVEN ON THE GREEN
BELLE HAVEN ON THE GREEN
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HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE

*BUYERS AGENT

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