INSIDE

ALX Film Festival

The movie promo for ‘Art Thief,’ Best of Festival winner in the Alexandria Film Festival, which took place last weekend at Hoffman Theaters, The Beatley Library and the Lyceum in Alexandria. See page 10 for reviews by Times staff of six films.

Zoning for Housing: Too much or too little?

Dozens show support, opposition to incoming zoning vote

BY CAITLYN MEISNER

In a nearly four-and-a-half hour public hearing Tuesday night at the City Council legislative meeting, dozens of residents spoke up either for or against the Zoning for Housing changes to be voted on November 28 by Council. The night started off rather tame as the Council welcomed new city attorney, Cheran Cordell Ivery, after Joanna Anderson, who currently holds the position, announced her retirement effective at the end of the year. Ivery will begin her position on January 8 and is transitioning from her role as city attorney in Hampton. She received a unanimous vote from Council. Council also voted unanimously to approve a resolution confirming the intention to fund the collective bargaining agreement between the city and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District Council.

Navigating the sounds of a growing city

BY WAFIR SALIH

Alexandria’s noise ordinance has undergone many changes since its inception in the early 1960s to address the challenges of a denser and louder population. Recent studies show prolonged exposure to high noise levels can have adverse health effects, leading to issues like poor sleep, stress, high blood pressure and noise-induced hearing loss.

The city last made amendments to the ordinance in 2021 when the Office of Environmental Quality and City Council collaborated to establish clearer guidelines and implement more restrictions regarding noise in residential and public areas.

The noise ordinance, explained

Bill Skrabak, deputy director of infrastructure and environmental quality, said the city has a specific approach to regulating noise. “We regulate certain activities by the hours of the day with which they can occur,” Skrabak said. “We also regulate noise levels at the property line by the type of use that’s going on on that property, so those are the two main
ROSEMONT | $1,750,000

Fabulous brick Rosemont colonial on a wide tree lined street. Expanded with approx 3,200 sq ft of living space on 3.5 levels, off street parking and an amazing 7,250 (sq ft) rear yard and detached garage. This home was renovated in 2000/01 and awaits your custom finishes! There are 4/5 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, finished LL with recreation room and outside entrance. The family room with french doors to covered porch overlooks the yard with mature plantings, open green space and concrete drive pad. Bonus third level with oodles of space and potential! Blocks to 2 METROS, Shops & Restaurants in Del Ray and Old Town!!

OLD TOWN | 117 N PEYTON ST. | $1,175,000

Rarely available brick row-home just blocks to King Street Metro, shops, restaurants and bike path! Welcomed by an inviting front porch this three level home has 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and beautiful hardwood floors. Main level has a living room with a gas fireplace, formal dining room, half bath, kitchen addition with white cabinets, viking gas stove, vaulted ceilings with cove lighting and a walk-in pantry! The partially finished basement has a rec. room, full basement, laundry and storage rooms with outside entrance. HEATED patio, planting boxes with mature trees, secure parking with garage door and alley access!

OLD TOWN | 507 WILKES ST. | $975,000

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.

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Week of November 16 crime roundup

An Alexandria Police Department investigation of inappropriate matter displayed in a police vehicle concluded with the department finding a violation of city policies, according to a press release from APD. The case is now being dealt with internally. The incident occurred on October 18 when an APD vehicle displayed a cartoon pig head, domino mask and shirt saying “I can’t breathe.” APD said in the press release they do not condone nor tolerate any behavior contrary to its own policies and procedures.

The victim from the 2707 DeWitt Ave. homicide has been identified as Emmanuel Negatu, 38, of Centreville, Virginia. APD is seeking assistance from the public in the ongoing homicide investigation. Anyone with information on the incident should contact Detective Matthew Kramarik at 703-746-6650 or matthew.kramarik@alexandria.va.gov.

A vehicle crash involving a pedestrian took place around 1 p.m. Saturday at the 400 block of North Armistead Street according to a notification sent by APD and a later press release. A blue SUV hit a seven-year-old boy in an apartment complex parking lot. The boy was transported to the hospital with critical to life-threatening injuries and was transported to the hospital. APD is still investigating.

A robbery took place Monday morning at the 5600 block of King Street according to a press release from APD. A victim received minor injuries and APD is still investigating.

Alexandria Film Festival awards

Several films received awards at the 17th annual Alexandria Film Festival according to a press release from the AFF. The awards were voted on by attendees. “Art Thief,” directed by Arthur Egeli, took home the Best of Festival award. Other winning films are listed below. Reviews for six of the films by Times staff can be viewed on page 10.

• Special Jury Award – “Two Lives in Pittsburgh”
• The Joe Cantwell Award for Documentary Excellence – “We Rise”
• Best Foreign Language Feature – “Temporaries”
• The Audience Award – “The Fake ID”
• Best Achievement in Innovative Filmmaking – “Eat Flowers”
• Best Narrative Short – Apple Pie
• Best Documentary Short – “Witch Hunt”
• Best Foreign Language Short – “Dos Bros Force”
• Best Regional Film – “True North: Honest Stories of Finding Home”
• Best Service to Humanity Achievement in Filmmaking – “By My Side”
• Best Animated Film – “The Old Young Crow”

The filmmakers who won awards at the Alexandria Film Festival.

CORRECTION: The Nov. 9, 2023, story “A blue wave”: Alexandria Democrats sweep General Assembly races, help flip House of Delegates” stated Delegates Alfonso Lopez and Charniele Herring were reelected to their fourth and fifth terms in office, respectively. Delegate Lopez will serve his seventh term in office and Delegate Herring will serve her eighth term in office in the next session in January. The Times regrets the error.
A special election to fill Bailey’s seat is expected to take place in early 2024.

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**ZONING**

**FROM | 1**

Council 20, Local 3001. This agreement covers more than 200 employees across six departments in the city and this is the third collective bargaining agreement the city has made since 2021.

Then, around 7 p.m., the public hearing started after a brief staff presentation. Council chambers were packed with scheduled speakers and onlookers. The first speaker, Barbara Beach of South Royal Street, spoke in opposition to the proposed changes.

Beach’s testimony was the first of 75 speakers that were present – either in the chambers or via Zoom – and used their three minutes to tell Council how they feel about the proposed changes. While many more signed up to speak, several did not show when their name was called.

A major theme of the testimonies was either the zoning changes were too much – the changes were going too far in the wrong direction for the city, and specifically, in regard to single-family/unit zoning – or it was too little: Council needed to go beyond the proposed changes to fix the affordable housing crisis.

**The opposition**

Alexandrians who opposed the zoning changes unequivocally spoke about single-family/unit zones and the fear they felt about the city eliminating them to create mixed-residence type zones.

Carter Flemming, chair of the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations, spoke in opposition to what she called the “sweeping changes.” The federation proposed that Council postpone the initiative until after Alexandria’s local elections next year.

“Do you really believe that ending single-family zones and neighborhoods should ever be characterized as modest or small-scale?” Flemming asked Council.

Karen Johnson, a Del Ray resident, said she was unsure of how building large duplexes in single-family zones would address the affordable housing crisis.

“We see a blank check for developers,” Johnson said. “The city should commit to helping neighborhoods preserve affordable housing stock, which is being demolished and replaced by ‘McMansions’ on a daily basis.”

Brian Mistretta said single-family homeowners made the conscious choice to live in single-family zones, not mixed-residency zones.

“One of the reasons we chose Alexandria is because it wasn’t as overbuilt as Arlington was,” Mistretta said. “What developer will build a lower-cost unit out of the goodness of their heart?”

“The elimination of single-family zoning will not remedy the past evil of racial segregation in the city,” William Stone, a resident of Braddock Heights for nearly 45 years, said. “More than 50 years have passed since racial covenants and red-lining were outlawed. The proposed changes will not promote any significant economic diversity in our neighborhood.”

Mary Embry, a Jefferson Park resident, said prog-
RACHEL CARTER

Alexandria’s very own Rachel Carter is one of 36 outstanding Coldwell Banker women from across the country who were honored at the 2023 Generation Blue Experience for being named a Coldwell Banker Woman on the Rise. The Woman on the Rise Award is presented to influential people who have demonstrated outstanding efforts to increase the equity of representation within the real estate community. This includes notable contributions to the real estate industry through business success, mentorship, and leadership.

Rachel has led the Alexandria Office to be the #1 office in Virginia for Coldwell Banker Realty for the last 7 years. Now, as the District Manager of Northern Virginia, Rachel also manages the network of Coldwell Banker branches in the area, overseeing operations that are home to nearly 700 professional real estate agents. Her objective is to optimize client service, fuel business growth, and live the company’s motto, Helping Agents Live Exceptional Lives.

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It is the diversity of the housing types that makes Del Ray and Alexandria so unique and different from other, more cookie cutter suburban neighborhoods.”

– Stephanie Elms, resident

The support

Many residents who spoke in favor of the proposed changes applauded Council for the constant communication and commitment to diversifying the housing market in Alexandria. But, many pushed Council to go even further in the future.

“Just like many of my neighbors, I share the concern of not wanting the character of the city to completely change,” Stephanie Elms of Del Ray said. “But I also recognize that the city is already changing and will continue to change whether [this] passes or not.”

Elms, a new resident of the city, said one of the many reasons she loves Alexandria is because of the mix of housing types.

“It is the diversity of the housing types that makes Del Ray and Alexandria so unique and different from other, more cookie cutter suburban neighborhoods in Northern Virginia,” Elms said. “Increasing the available housing options that can be built will provide the city with much-needed flexibility to manage the inevitable change as it comes.”

Joe Fray, a resident of the city for more than 10 years, said he’s excited for new neighbors to move in, old neighbors to stay and for the city to grow. Fray spoke against the civic and citizen associations, stating they do not represent the entirety of the population they claim to represent.

“More housing and more density will give us a more livable city,” Fray said. “The amount of fear mongering and deliberate misinformation … has been incredibly disappointing.”

Anderson Vereyken, a resident on Braddock Place, said he supports the proposed changes as a good start.

“We should pursue a future where young people and working class people have a path to homeownership in Alexandria,” Vereyken said. “The Alexandria of the 2030s and 2040s will see our decisions over the coming years as an inflection point: will that backwards gaze see a city striving to tackle the problems of its day, or will we be remembered as the ones who allowed stagnation and self-interest to make homeownership the haven of a privileged few?”

Alex Goyette, an Alexandria resident and leader of the YIMBYs of NoVA, said the organization supports the proposal before Council but encourages them to take the reforms further.

“There’s nothing wrong with living in a single-family house, but a city cannot be affordable when it’s setting aside a third of its land for the exclusive use of the most expensive type of housing,” Goyette said. “There’s nothing wrong with owning your home – I own mine; but a city cannot prioritize low-income residents while banning rental apartments in entire neighborhoods.”

Goyette continued, stating the city needs to take these first steps now.

“These reforms won’t solve our housing crisis; you’ll need to do more,” Goyette said. “I hope you’ll legalize apartments citywide and provide more funds for affordable housing and empower our renters with more rights to dignified homes.”

The hearing concluded around 11:50 p.m. Tuesday. A public hearing will be held Saturday and residents are encouraged by Council to sign up to speak. Council will take the proposals under consideration at the next legislative meeting on November 28.

– cmeisner@alextimes.com
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Greg.Doherty@CBRealty.com

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Ingrid Mendez | 703.731.0857
commercialmetro@gmail.com

WAYNEWOOD
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“Our goal in enforcing the noise code is to achieve compliance. We do regularly encourage compliance by making people aware.”

Skrabak said the city’s philosophy is centered around awareness and compliance, rather than immediately resorting to penalties.

“Our goal in enforcing the noise code is to achieve compliance,” Skrabak said. “We do have the ability to issue tickets, but the goal isn’t to issue as many tickets as we can, the goal is to achieve compliance. We do regularly encourage compliance by making people aware.”

Skrabak also said in most cases, simply informing individuals of a noise complaint is enough for them to stop.

“In many cases, that’s all we need to do, just make somebody aware that, ‘Hey, this was a problem, we got complaints’ and they address it,” Skrabak said.

Skrabak acknowledged the delicate task of regulating noise without stifling the city’s lively atmosphere.

“It’s a balancing act,” Skrabak said. “We’re trying to encourage people to enjoy and create vibrancy, but we also want to try to maintain a quality of life where it’s not completely disrupting.”

Alexandria now has a dedicated nighttime employee at their disposal who patrols the city at night to monitor noise levels. While Skrabak said the city is content with one inspector for now, he did not rule out the possibility of adding more positions in the future if deemed necessary.

**Noise on the waterfront**

Hal Hardaway, a former U.S. Navy captain and a vice chair for the city’s Environmental Council, shared his experience with extreme noise levels in the city.

“Six weeks ago, I was walking down the 100 block [of] King Street and it was painful,” Hardaway recounted. “It was somebody right in the middle of the block playing amplified music and I can’t believe people could stand it. Nobody was standing near him because it was actually painful.”

Hardaway also spoke about the broader impact of noise pollution in the area, particularly when it came to his former neighbors living along King Street.

“Some of them can’t sleep in the front of their houses because [if] all the cars going by,” Hardaway said. “They have to go to the back of their house to sleep.”

**Neighbors concerned about ACHS noise**

In the neighborhood surrounding Alexandria City High School, homeowners are voicing concerns about increased noise pollution following recent renovations.

In November 2020, the high school renovated Parker-Gray Memorial Stadium, which included a new set of lights being added to the field. Prior to renovations, residents in the area sued the school over the installation of the lights, which ended with a settlement where both parties negotiated on a consent agreement. The lights were allowed to go up shortly after.

Carter Flemming, one of the homeowners, said the lights have led to an increase in noise in the area.

“Previously when darkness fell, the school was quiet, and we enjoyed that,” Flemming said. “Now with the lights, the hours that the field can be used for various purposes are increased. So, obviously the noise is increased, because there are people using the fields that could not use them previously.”

Flemming described the types of sounds that have become common since the installation of the lights.

“It’s football coaches blowing whistles, yelling, groups of athletes chanting and yelling. Just as you could imagine what goes on with practice of a sport,” Flemming said. “We hear all of that coming from the school.”

Flemming raised concerns with ACHS regarding its compliance to the consent decree – which she asserts states that amplified sound systems should not be louder than 55 decibels. Flemming said homeowners had to hire their own sound consultant to measure the noise.

“We have not observed any noise ordinance enforcement at all,” Flemming said. “We have professional sound equipment. We record the noise. We discuss it with the schools. We have not gotten into legal action with them about the noise violations, though we have informed them that they are in violation of the noise ordinances.”

Flemming said while she does believe the school is trying to do right by the homeowners, she still believes elevated noise is an issue.

“You want to maximize the use of the fields, we all understand that,” Flemming said. “But to just say, ‘You don’t have to worry because the lights are just shining on the field,’ ignores the reality of what is going to be going on [at] the field while those lights are on.”

**Opposition to gas-powered leaf blowers**

Gas-powered leaf blowers have become a focal point of environmental and noise pollution discussions in recent years. Many states and cities across the country – including Washington D.C. – have taken steps to ban these devices.

In February 2022, House Bill 1337 was brought to the floor of Virginia’s General Assembly for a vote. The bill would grant localities the power to regulate and ban gas-powered leaf blowers through the noise ordinance. The bill was defeated in a 5-4, party line vote with Republicans constituting the...
majority, resulting in the resolution being tabled and effectively killed.

Quiet Clean NOVA is an organization working to raise awareness of gas-powered leaf blowers and the need for regulation. The group's petition, calling for the General Assembly to give localities the authority to ban gas-powered leaf blowers, has garnered support among the community with more than 2,250 signatures.

Susan Davis, a volunteer for Quiet Clean NOVA, compared the use of gas-powered leaf blowers to smoking.

“Everybody hates them,” Davis said. “I mean, except for maybe the people who use them, and I can’t imagine that they enjoy them. I think it’s the new smoking. Everybody’s got one, but they’re bad for everyone.”

Davis described how loud these leaf blowers can get.

“It kind of sounds like a truck that’s sitting there with its engine, going for hours in front of your house,” Davis said.

Davis is hopeful Democrats winning the legislature in last week’s election can make a difference on this matter.

“We’re hoping that the Democratic win this election will change the response to this. It doesn’t seem like it should be a political issue, but maybe it is,” Davis said. We weren’t able to get anywhere with the Republican house, so we’re going to go at it again this time.”

Davis also said she thinks certain lobbying groups could be working behind the scenes to oppose Quiet Clean NOVA’s efforts.

“I’ve been told before by someone in the know that there are lobbying groups. You know, that’s the opposition, that there are lobbying groups going to both houses,” Davis said. “Because their interest is to continue selling these and having no restrictions.”

Skrabak said the city is aware of the efforts to ban gas-powered leaf blowers and they’re looking to legislation to grant them the authority to do so.

“In our legislative package, we have been supporting legislation that would give localities more authority to regulate [gas-powered] leaf blowers. Because there are now alternatives,” Skrabak said. “You can get a battery-powered one that’s a little bit quieter than a gas-powered one.”

However, Skrabak asserts while the city is supporting such legislation, they cannot do much legally to ban gas-powered leaf blowers out-right unless the State reverses course on HB 1337.

“After many consultations with our city attorney’s office, without any changes in Richmond, we could not just come in and prohibit the use of gas-powered leaf blowers,” Skrabak said. “So that’s why the city has been looking for support of potentially expanding local authority over that.”

Residents are encouraged to reach out to the Office of Environmental Quality if they witness potential violations at 703-746-4065. Those witnessing noise level violations occurring in real time are also encouraged to reach out to the Alexandria Police Department on their non-emergency line at 703-746-4444.

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The 17th annual Alexandria Film Festival took place last weekend, with more than 60 films shown across three locations. Festival goers had their choice of an array of genres, from documentaries to student films to thrillers to animated entries to international offerings. There was truly something for everyone. Times staff selected six films to review in this section, including a student film, several documentaries and the Best of Festival winner, “Art Thief.”
‘The Hoof Trimmer’ shows the power of a good pedicure

BY DENISE DUNBAR

One of the great joys about attending a film festival is finding unexpected treasures – in the case of “The Hoof Trimmer,” literally in the midst of cow dung.

I went to the Alexandria Film Festival student showcase of films on November 10 mainly to see the short fiction “Flowers Die First” by Gwyn Newcomb. While that film was entertaining, I was blown away by the 13-minute documentary “The Hoof Trimmer” by Kate Woods, who earlier this year received her masters of arts from George Washington University’s Corcoran School of the Arts and Design.

The documentary was part biography, as Woods followed hoof trimmer Mark Burwell to various dairy farms in Virginia for six months, watching him trim cows’ hooves while telling us why foot care is so important to the well-being of cows and why he chose this vocation.

Through Burwell’s eyes, we come to understand why regular foot care is both humane for the cows and worth the investment for dairy farmers.

In a mere 13 minutes, Woods helps us ponder new ways of farming and how they clash with old. We also see that what’s more humane can also be more profitable and we gain a glimmer of understanding of what can motivate someone in their 30s to willingly undertake the grueling life of a farmer.

We also see cows doing amusing things, because all animals are funny if we watch them for a bit.

Woods seamlessly weaves all of these elements together in a documentary that’s interesting, thought provoking, educational and – just one bad cow pun – moo-ving.

In the question and answer session after the film, moderated by former AFF Director Margaret Wohler, Woods said part of her motivation in making “The Hoof Trimmer” was to show the human side of big agriculture.

“I realized that animal agriculture was not going anywhere, and so I wanted to make a documentary showing solutions” to some of the problems farmers face, Woods said. “I focused on solutions being put in place in an industry that isn’t perfect.”

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Small transgressions lead to major crimes in ‘Art Thief’

BY DENISE DUNBAR

In every good heist movie, the crime perpetrators need to be likable – think “Ocean’s Eleven,” “The Great Train Robbery” and “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.” They also need to be less bad than the real bad guys, Arthur Bjorn Egeli, director, co-producer and co-writer of “Art Thief,” explained during a question and answer session Saturday afternoon during the Alexandria Film Festival.

Max Deacon as untalented but passionate artist Kevin Deely and Jacqueline Emerson as Olympia Hutchinson, a painter who works at a somewhat shady art auction house, have viewers rooting for them as “Art Thief” unfolds.

Apparently, enough AFF viewers found Deacon and Emerson appealing enough to vote “Art Thief” as this year’s Best of Festival, AFF announced in a release on Monday.

Deacon, who is British, is convincing as a lower-class Bostonian who assumes an upper class accent, while the appealing Emerson is best known for playing “Foxface” in the second “Hunger Games” movie.

In the film, Kevin carries major baggage from his childhood, during which he was abandoned by his single mother and raised in a boys’ home. His mother was an art lover who instilled in him a love of paintings by taking Kevin to galleries prior to disappearing from his life.

Grown up Kevin is handsome, charming and broke when he begins volunteering in the Gary Hart for President campaign in 1987. Kevin realizes there’s money to be grazed by knocking on doors for Hart in Boston’s wealthier suburbs.

In an amusing scene, Kevin practices an upper class Boston accent by listening to tapes of John F. Kennedy speeches on his 1980s authentic Walkman. He successfully raises thousands of dollars for Hart, skimming off the top as he goes along. Kevin winds up in prison for stealing the Hart campaign’s money and the identity of a fatuous son-of-power.

Before landing in the slammer, Kevin meets Olympia, a gorgeous redhead reminiscent of a young Kate Winslett, in an art class. They begin dating and Kevin eventually pulls Olympia into his entanglements with criminals both obvious and seemingly respectable.

Multiple Rembrandts are stolen in “Art Thief,” which is an imagined “how it might have happened” course of events of the largest single theft of art in history: The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston was robbed in 1990 of art valued at more than $550 million.

Egeli spoke after the film about the logistical and legal facets of making a movie about art. In the case of “Art Thief,” the stolen paintings are presumed lost forever, so using existing works in the film wasn’t an option.

The solution: Egeli, who is an artist himself, and the artist community in Provincetown, Massachusetts, where Egeli lives with his wife Heather Egeli, painted reproductions of the masterpieces. “Art Thief” provides a glimpse at how easy it is to copy and alter art, which leads to the film’s central theme – that small transgressions easily lead to major sins.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Max Deacon and Jacqueline Emerson star as aspiring artists in love who cleverly work their way through a criminal entanglement in ‘Art Thief,’ which won Best of Festival in the 2023 Alexandria Film Festival.

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‘Soldier’ captivates with a veteran’s harrowing story

BY CAITLYN MEISNER

The 22-minute short documentary film, “Soldier” by Justin Zimmerman, follows Daniel Krug, a veteran who eloquently details his struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder following his childhood and time in Iraq.

Krug, an Army veteran, opened his heart and told his entire life story, starting with his childhood in Alaska. He was born to a stay-at-home mother and fisherman father. His father lacked a presence in his life, leaving Krug's mother to care for him and his siblings for nine months out of the year by herself. Krug detailed the struggle of living in a toxic, poverty-stricken environment.

Amongst the fighting between his parents and teasing from classmates due to his old clothing and shoes with holes, Krug grew up in constant chaos and in “fight or flight” mode. He also played football throughout his adolescence.

Lacking a real path in his life – something he chalks up to his wild and free childhood – Krug struggled to find discipline in college and was eventually kicked out for poor grades. What does he do next? What any other American boy did in the 1990s: join the Army.

Krug had finally found a purpose in life in the military. After 10 long years as a sniper and SWAT member, Krug made the difficult decision to leave the military to be present for his young daughter. But he felt lost again. It was a difficult transition back to civilian life; he compared this to being a giant meant to “guard the gates.”

“They love the giants when they’re guarding the gates,” Krug said. “But nobody wants them back. They make giants and then they say, ‘OK, don’t be a giant anymore.’ How do you do that?”

Krug then details the near-loss of his life in 2013 when his suicide attempt failed due to an error in the gun when he pulled the trigger. He said he looks at his life in two phases: post- and pre-attempt. Now, as a father to five with a wife, his life is completely different. Krug’s story is not unique; the struggle of veterans transitioning back to regular American life is strenuous and leads many to commit suicide.

Zimmerman does a fantastic job of portraying the loss and trauma associated with veterans and the wars in the Middle East. Almost throughout the entirety of the film, it is just a talking head shot of Krug with his black cowboy hat in a barn of some sort. The audience feels truly connected to his story, almost like you’re sitting in the barn right in front of him.

danielkrug@gmail.com

Daniel Krug is an Army veteran and currently an avid armored combat enthusiast.
‘No Matter What’ shows addiction’s impact on families

BY CAITLYN MEISNER

“No Matter What” follows Cassy Bustos, a recovered drug addict and former prisoner, in her journey post-prison to rehabilitate her life documented by Gayle Nosal and Beret Strong.

The 48-minute film opens with Bustos in the present day at the transitional rehabilitation house she directs in Colorado. She talks with some of the residents and fixes up the house during her daily rounds. She sits with a few residents and starts telling her story, taking the audience back in time to the start of her addiction.

Bustos said she always felt like an outsider, but could never pinpoint what it was. Was it the fact she was Hispanic in a predominantly white area? Or something she’s suppressed?

The story of a normal girl in a normal family in suburban Colorado turns south when Bustos discovers meth at a young age. From this moment, Bustos’ entire life is changed. The addiction to the high consumes her day-to-day and eventually ruins her relationship with her family as she teeters on the edge of suicide and a worsening addiction.

Bustos’ fate worsens when she is charged, convicted and sentenced to six years in prison in 2014 for felony burglary and misdemeanor assault. She had gone to her old apartment with her friend, Christopher Hernandez, to retrieve her belongings when the altercation with the current tenants turned violent and Hernandez was killed.

Bustos was fortunate enough to take rehabilitation classes during her three years in prison – she was let out early on parole. She said in the film that prison turned her entire life around for the better, which is demonstrated by the changes she made in her life upon her release.

Throughout the documentary, Bustos’ family – mainly her mother and father, who remained supportive of her throughout her addiction and prison time – demonstrate the toll addiction often takes on one’s family. Bustos’ parents are tearful as they speak of the times they found her high and also about the frequent weekends when they visited her in prison.

Despite the odd animation scenes as Bustos and her family describe the pain of her addiction and fast pace of the film, the story and its message are powerful. Addiction doesn’t just affect the one who is addicted: it’s a disease that touches every single person in their orbit.

In a question-and-answer session with an outreach person for the film, it was revealed that Bustos herself was involved in making the film and making it accessible to relevant communities. The film has been shown multiple times to Bustos’ community, family and friends, in addition to conferences for addiction assistance and justice.

The transparency of Bustos and her family is what makes this film so easy to watch and fall into. Hearing and seeing the raw emotion from Bustos and her parents is captivating and tells of how far she has come in her journey to rehabilitate her life and relationships.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Cassy Bustos was the centerpiece of the ‘No Matter What’ documentary, following her journey.
‘By My Side’ illustrates impact of service dogs

BY WAFIR SALIH

“By My Side” is an award-winning documentary directed by Vicki Topaz and the late Wynn Padula. The film highlights the therapeutic benefits psychiatric service dogs can have on veterans diagnosed with PTSD.

The documentary opens with a veteran suffering from a panic attack in real time during the shoot. Mary Cortani, founder and director of Operation Freedom Paws, speaks softly to the man, helping guide his attention back to the dog at the end of the leash that he’s holding. The veteran’s quickened breathing begins to slow to a steadier pace as he pets the dog. The scene ends with the veteran saying “I love this dog,” as he addresses the dog directly saying, “Good boy, thank you for bringing me back,” culminating in an emotional scene which hooked everyone in the theater.

“By My Side” also delves into the impact PTSD can have on the veterans’ families. Accounts from their children and partners show how war trauma not only affects the veteran, but those closest to them upon returning home. Family members discuss the change in behavior when the veteran in their family returns home from war.

One of the most compelling aspects the documentary offers are the science-backed accounts weaved in throughout from neurobiology expert Meg Daley Olmert. At one point, Olmert provides an explanation on how Oxytocin – a hormone the brain releases during social bonding – is released when humans interact with dogs. Olmert says dogs also experience a release of this chemical when they interact with us, which explains why they’re able to understand our feelings so well.

There’s a pivotal moment in the documentary that shows how dogs are able to read the emotions of veterans. Ramon Reyes, a veteran, talks about a time when he was watching television and heard fireworks outside. The sudden sound immediately triggered memories of the battlefield, placing Reyes in a head space of panic and anxiousness.

As Reyes started to have an episode, his dog, Huey, pounced on him and started licking his face. Reyes was annoyed at first as he told his dog to stop, but then he realized Huey actually snapped him out of the panic and brought him back to reality.

“By My Side” ends with a call to action, with a note on how 1.8 million U.S. veterans suffer from some form of PTSD – and that they could all benefit from service dogs. The team hopes to raise awareness on the issue so Veterans Affairs can provide veterans with access to psychiatric service dogs at no additional cost.

The documentary is dedicated in memory of Wynn Padula, who served as co-director and cinematographer. Padula passed away suddenly from a heart attack on August 15, 2021, at 42.

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U.S. Marine Corps veteran and Purple Heart recipient Emilio finds companionship and support in Samson, his devoted PTSD service dog.
A battle over feral cats in ‘Cat City’

BY WAFIR SALIH

“Cat City” is a fascinating documentary directed by Ben Kolak that explores Chicago and its struggle with a large feral cat population, estimated at 200,000 felines. The film begins by showing how, in the early 2000s, a group of residents advocated for cat hunt laws. The law was eventually voted in but the governor vetoed the measure. An ordinance was established soon after in 2007 to “Trap, Neuter and Release” cats back in the population. The strategy was appropriately dubbed TNR.

The documentary features an ensemble of activists, ranging from TNR activists, to birders, to members of the Washington, D.C. Cat Count. TNR activists Autumn Cirrus and Ruben steal the show as they work together during key moments to identify, take care of and even chase cats in the city – which provide some humorous moments.

“Cat City” extends beyond just felines and their neighborhood cat caretakers. The film briefly examines how the city has a rat infestation and the feral cat population surge happened in part to take care of this issue. The documentary also delves into the birder community’s opposition to the TNR ordinance, which takes up most of the second half of the film.

“Trap, Neuter and Release is a joke,” as one birder put it. The birder emphasized how cats are invasive and non-native to the environment – while birds are native – and cats are endangering the bird population. Shots of cats eating birds are immediately shown, providing a visceral glimpse at what a feral cat is capable of.

“I am all for eliminating feral cats, by any means,” the birder emphasized gravely. The documentary ends with a trip to D.C., where members of the organization D.C. Cat Count are shown installing cameras throughout the city to survey the cat population. Consulting scientist John D. Boone says that TNR doesn’t work and intervention should be “planned and targeted” by using objective methods like street cameras to measure population size and trends.

“Cat City” offers a fair, balanced and critical look into the world of feral cat population control, engaging with all sides of the argument while also centering around a scientific approach and allowing viewers to make up their own minds about the issue.

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Topcat, who has undergone Chicago’s Trap-Neuter-Return program, lets out a yawn in the city.
A triumphant return to the Folger

Venerable theater reopens after multi-year renovation
BY DENISE DUNBAR

It was a joyful homecoming at the Folger Theatre Saturday night as the historic venue held a grand reopening, complete with an after-play party for audience and cast alike, following a three-and-a-half year major renovation project at the Folger Shakespeare Library.

While it was wonderful to enjoy the intimate, Elizabethan Folger Theatre again after so long an absence for a performance of Shakespeare’s “The Winter’s Tale,” the unveiling of some of the Library’s new spaces captured the evening’s spotlight.

Prior patrons of the Folger will recall entering the building on the second floor, where the cramped lobby hosted the will-call window to the left. The renovation has moved the main entryway downstairs, enabling guests to walk through a lovely exterior plaza and garden area leading to the new entrance.

Visitors step into a spacious 12,000 foot lobby with will-call and two large, multi-stall, gender-neutral restroom facilities. There’s an elevator and a new stairwell, which boasts a continuous wooden handrail from top to bottom – something the old facility lacked.

Renovations to the Library portion of the facility are not yet complete, but glimpses of the Great Hall, in which food was served in just the eastern portion Saturday night, promise a lovely makeover.

According to the Folger’s website, the Great Hall is being repurposed from hosting exhibitions to a meeting and gathering space. Other rooms in the library are being remodeled in the way of the best historic museums, making the space more interactive and thus accessible to a wider swath of visitors.

The renovations are being financed by “The Wonder of Will” campaign, which has raised more than $50 million to date.

While some people in attendance commented on the stark contrast between the sleek, modern Adams Plaza downstairs and the dark wood and antiquated feel of the Folger Theatre and Great Hall, I found the juxtaposition appealing. Museums have to remain relevant and welcoming while preserving what came before, and this project has accomplished just that.

The only change to the Folger Theatre itself is a revamped HVAC system. Anyone who previously watched a fantastic performance while shivering inside their winter jacket will appreciate the upgrade.

Unfortunately, the play itself was the least impressive facet of this triumphant evening, as I found the choice of “The Winter’s Tale” an odd one for the grand reopening.

This play was performed at the Folger Theatre less than two years prior to the planned March 1, 2020, shutdown for the renovation. Given that theaters only do a handful of productions per year, this is an extremely short time lapse from one performance of “The Winter’s Tale” to the next when many other options were available.

“The Winter’s Tale” certainly has its advocates, but I find the first half exceedingly morose and the second excessively silly. A spirited rendition of one of The Bard’s beloved comedies would have been a better choice.

There were nonetheless numerous notable performances Saturday night, including Hadi Tabbal, who nailed the descent of Leontes into jealousy-fueled madness in the play’s first half. These scenes were aided by eerily effective sound effects that helped accentuate the “inside his own head” aspect of Leontes’ subsequent misguided actions.

Antoinette Crow-Legacy was radiant as Hermione, Leontes’ faithful wife who is wrongly accused. Reza Salazar engaged the audience with his energetic portrayal of the con artist Autolycus.

And young Clarence Payne, a third-grader at Alexandria’s St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School, was remarkable as the tragic young prince Mamillius.

In the play’s first half, actors were clad in costumes from the 1940s, including Folger stalwart Kate Eastwood Norris, who by my count is performing in her 20th production at the Theatre. Norris was exceptional as Hermione’s loyal defender, Paulina.

Placing Shakespeare’s characters and words in a modern timeframe always causes the theater-goer to experience the play in a different way, and it was effective here. The frivolity of the second act was accentuated by the faux western garb worn by most of the characters, and by the neo-drag-show attire of Autolycus.

Artistic Director Karen Ann Daniels set the tone for the happiness of the evening while welcoming the audience.

“This is a night of celebrating and of joy,” Daniels said.

Directed by Tamilla Woodward, with scenic design by Raul Abrego, Jr.; costume design by Sarah Cubbage; sound design and composition by Matthew Nielson; lighting design by Max Doolittle, and choreography by Joya Powell.

Also starring Drew Kopas as Polixenes, Cody Nickell as Camillo, Kayleandra White as Perdita, Jonathan Del Palmer as Forizell, Stephen Patrick Martin as Antigonus/shepherd and Nicholas Gerwitz as the shepherd’s son.

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

The Biden-Harris Administration has introduced a new lower-cost prescription drug law, which will help to connect more Americans to quality care in addition to providing financial breathing room.

Historically, federal annuitants found little value in joining a Part D plan – an optional prescription drug benefit for those on Medicare – because federal employee health benefit plans’ prescription drug coverage was as good or better.

However, certain new reforms strengthen the value of Part D and should be considered in your plan choice next year and even more in future years.

Here are some of those changes.

**Insulin coverage capped**
Insulin covered by Part D plans is capped at no more than $35 per month starting this year. Part D plans will not have to cover all insulin products but will have to offer one of each dosage form and insulin type – rapid-acting, short-acting, intermediate-acting and long-acting.

**Catastrophic coverage**
Once total spending between the Part D enrollee, Part D plan and drug manufacturers reaches $7,400 in a year, catastrophic coverage begins, which can protect people if they get seriously injured or sick. Currently, the enrollee pays 5% of expenses in the catastrophic coverage phase, but beginning in 2024, Part D plans will eliminate the 5% enrollee share.

**FEHB Medicare Advantage plans**
FEHB Medicare Advantage plans are more generous than regulatory MA plans and are only open to federal annuitants. They have only recently been made available through FEHB.

By joining an FEHB MA plan, you’ll receive improved Part D benefits going forward. Because Medicare is the primary payer for annuitant medical bills, these plans pass on most of their FEHB enrollee cost to Medicare and offer low FEHB premiums, rebates on the Medicare Part B premium or both.

There are several nationwide FEHB MA plans available, including Aetna Advantage, APWU High, Compass Rose, Foreign Service, MHBP Standard, NALC High, Rural Carrier and SAMBA. There are also local FEHB MA plans available from Humana, Kaiser, UnitedHealthcare and UPMC. Expect to see even more FEHB MA plans.

More Americans can access quality care with new lower-cost Medicare options.
MEDICARE

plans in 2024.

To join one of these FEHB MA plans, you must be enrolled in both an FEHB plan and Medicare Parts A and B. All FEHB MA plans either reimburse or reduce some or all the Part B premium. Many have no out-of-pocket costs for medical and hospital expenses from providers that accept Medicare, except for prescription drugs.

Other changes that impact Virginians

• Allowing Medicare to negotiate better prescription drug prices.
• Requiring drug companies to pay a rebate to Medicare if they raise prices faster than inflation.
• Continuing enhanced premium tax credits that helped 13 million people covered under the Affordable Care Act save an average of $800 on their Marketplace health insurance in 2022.

The Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program offers support for individuals navigating Medicare. Offering free counseling and assistance, VICAP plays a crucial role in guiding Virginians through their Medicare options. The open enrollment period is October 15 to December 7 and residents can access this resource to receive personalized guidance. Through VICAP, trained counselors aid in identifying the most suitable healthcare plan, help file for medical benefits and educate individuals on how to prevent health care fraud.

For more information city of Alexandria residents can call their local VICAP program at 703-746-5999.

The writer is the deputy division chief and long term care coordinator in the city's division of Aging and Adult Services.

VICAP can assist you in navigating Medicare.

Do you need help caring for your mom during the day?

If you or your aging parent are looking for an alternative to nursing home care, check out the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).

VISIT CHERRYBLOSSOMPACE.COM OR CALL 833.851.7469 TO LEARN MORE
Understanding and reducing stroke risks

BY FAMILY FEATURES

As the second leading cause of death worldwide, according to the World Health Organization, stroke will affect one in four adults over the age of 25 globally. A condition where the blood supply to the brain is disrupted, a stroke results in oxygen starvation, brain damage and loss of function.

There are two main types of strokes: ischemic, which occurs when a blood vessel carrying oxygen and nutrients to the brain is blocked by a clot, and hemorrhagic, which are less common but can be more serious, occur when a weakened blood vessel ruptures and begins leaking blood. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 87% of strokes are ischemic.

Because a stroke can cause lasting disability and pain for those impacted and their loved ones, it’s important to learn how to identify the signs and symptoms of stroke, how to reduce risk factors and where to go for timely treatment. Consider this information from the experts at Cerenovus, who are committed to changing the trajectory of stroke and offering a broad portfolio of devices used in the endovascular treatment of stroke, to learn more.

Know the signs and symptoms

If you suspect yourself or a loved one is experiencing a stroke, acting F.A.S.T. is critical in getting timely treatment necessary to survive. If you recognize the signs and symptoms of a stroke – face weakness, arm weakness and speech slurring – it’s time to call for help. Reducing the amount of time between the onset of stroke and treatment can make a difference in how well the brain, arms, legs, speech and thinking are able to recover. The longer a stroke goes untreated, the greater the chances are of experiencing long-term disability, brain damage or death.

Reduce the risks

While strokes can be devastating and deadly, up to 90% are preventable, according to the World Stroke Organization, and many risk factors can be controlled before they cause a stroke. By managing conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity and atrial fibrillation; ceasing smoking; eating a healthy diet; getting regular exercise; and taking prescribed medications, you can decrease your risk.

Address health inequities

Communities of color are disproportionately affected by stroke risk factors and have poorer experiences when it comes to timeliness and access to stroke care, referral patterns, treatment utilization and outcomes, according to research published in the Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases.

The risk of having a first stroke is nearly twice as high for Black people, according to the CDC, and members of the Black community have the highest rate of death due to stroke. Additionally, according to the American Stroke Association, non-white stroke patients are less likely to arrive by EMS and experience longer emergency department waiting times compared to white patients.

Know where to go

For every minute a stroke occurs, 1.9 million brain cells are lost, and the longer a stroke goes untreated, the greater the chances are of experiencing long-term disability and brain damage. That’s why it’s critical to seek immediate treatment at the nearest comprehensive stroke center. These facilities offer a full spectrum of neuro-endovascular care, which can help patients taken directly there survive without long-term disabilities.

Understand treatment options

Seeking immediate treatment for stroke means you have more treatment options available, such as being eligible to receive tissue plasminogen activator or mechanical thrombectomy for ischemic stroke. MT, a minimally invasive blood clot retrieval procedure, helps improve the chances you’ll survive an ischemic stroke and make a full recovery. Treatment options for hemorrhagic stroke include surgery to remove, repair or clip a ruptured aneurysm.

If you or a loved one experience signs of stroke, seek immediate emergency medical services.
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Hosting a major holiday event is no small effort. It requires close attention to detail from planning, cooking and cleaning to entertaining guests on the big day. Fortunately, just like any good recipe, approaching your hosting duties one step at a time can allow you to create a magnificent final product.

Plan the guest list and menu
Deciding how many guests you’ll be serving and what you plan to serve are two essential details that will guide the rest of your planning. When creating your guest list, be realistic about how many are likely to attend. Your menu may also be influenced by how many guests you plan to host; a whole turkey is practical for a large group, but a turkey breast may be adequate for a more intimate gathering. Remember to send your invites ahead of the day so guests have plenty of time to respond and you can prepare your menu.

Grocery shop early
The rush at the grocery store can be one of the most stressful parts of getting ready to host. Give yourself enough lead time by picking up pantry staples and beverages one to two weeks out so your kitchen is stocked for the big day. For perishables, get to the grocery store early in the morning one to two days before hosting to beat the rush and avoid any last-minute grocery runs the morning of your gathering.

Maximize prep time
While it’s likely the majority of your work will come on the big day, you can work ahead to reduce some of the load. For example, you can wash and chop vegetables for stuffing and other side dishes and store them overnight to minimize prep time in the morning. You can also use the quiet of the night before to tackle tasks like setting the table and organizing your seating chart, restocking towels and replenishing other essentials in the guest bathroom.

Enlist help with cooking
The day of your event is the perfect time to pull extra hands into the kitchen. Once you establish your cooking space and find your rhythm, you may even find sharing the preparations with a loved one is a great way to bond and create special memories.

Making cleanup easy
A few simple tricks can help you maintain a relatively clean workspace and keep up with all the dishes you need to prepare a lavish meal. First, be sure to clean up as you go. It may be tempting to throw all of your dirty utensils and empty mixing bowls in a pile in the sink to deal with later, but taking a few minutes to scrape dishes and load the dishwasher can help prevent a messy mountain from forming. That also means you’ll be more likely to find a clean measuring cup or spoon when you move on to prepare the next dish.
Located on the original Mansion House Farm of Mount Vernon, this home features three stories of glass overlooking the Potomac River. One-occupant home on 0.87 acre lot with breathtaking views from virtually all rooms. More than 6,200 square footage of finished space across three levels and huge rooms with a wonderful circular layout for entertaining or simply enjoying the Potomac River. The expansive views begin as you cross the threshold into the two-story grand foyer with a curved staircase. Space includes both a living room and overlook. There are six or seven bedrooms, including on the main level with a full bath. The primary and secondary bedrooms upstairs have their own private balconies. In the backyard, there are two circular patios overlooking the river with room for a pool. The Belle River lots go right to the water; several have private docks. This home has a perfect location for a dock on its southeast corner.

Spectacular waterfront estate
“TREES: A New Musical”

Students take a stand for the environment
BY KATIE CLIFFORD

In “TREES: A New Musical,” local composer Neal Learner addresses the impact young people can have when they take a stand to protect the environment.

Though it may share some similarities with Learner’s hometown of Alexandria – the story takes place in a town called “Alexburg” – where there are a lot of strong feelings about development, Learner wants it to be clear that the three-act musical is a work of fiction. “TREES” could be about any town or city in America where residential construction is prevalent and green space seems to be harder and harder to come by.

“This is not an anti-development musical,” Learner said. “It seems like 100 to 150 years ago, city planners knew the value of providing massive green open spaces, but it’s not like that anymore. I really just feel that green space is so important.”

Learner cares deeply about the impact overdevelopment can have. Through “TREES,” he explores the issues of housing demands, lack of urban green spaces and the effect this has on young people.

“I’m pretty in tune with the passions of young people,” Learner, who has two daughters in their early 20s, said. “I get the sense that young people are the ones speaking truth to power and leading charges and protests and that’s why it appealed to me to bring in a protagonist like Rachel Spring.”

The story of “TREES,” artfully directed by Sabrina McAllister, unfolds as we meet Rachel, played by Nora Rudmann, soaking up the trees and wilderness in her favorite forest with her best friend Henry Walden. The talent of these two young voices is immediately apparent and shines through in the opening number, “Trees,” where they are later joined by their fellow students – played by the vibrant ensemble cast – and their supportive biology teacher, Greta Fields, played by Cathy McCoskey.

While they sing the bright and lively number “Biology,” Catherine Oh’s thoughtful choreography is evident as the cast moves across the stage pointing out various bird and plant species to their own delight. With musical director Josh Cleveland on piano and Gwyn Jones playing woodwinds, the music accompaniment effortlessly pulls the audience straight into Rachel’s world from the very beginning of the performance.

Rachel soon discovers she has been awarded a $1 million grant from the city – with which she plans to turn the woodland area into a park. The audience is quickly introduced to the opposing forces on the “other side of the fence” when the mayor, an instantly captivating Karen Harris, and calculating building developer, Dirk Ramelson, played by Preston Grover, discuss their own plans: a large residential complex they hope will bring in revenue to the city.

Conflict ensues when Rachel and Henry – with the help of Ms. Fields – stand up to the powers that be to fight for their park in sensational numbers, including “We Oppose” and “Ain’t My Fault.” The whole confrontation is covered throughout by local news reporter, Brent Barker, played by the engaging Axandre Oge. The clash eventually leads Rachel to camp out in a tree in protest against the development.

On his phone, Henry films Rachel’s resilience and fearlessness after living in the tree for several days. He then shares it through social media and the video goes viral – inspiring young people from all over the world to stand up to help save their local environments from deforestation and overdevelopment.

It certainly doesn’t hurt the performance that two of the lead characters are actual high school students. Rudmann, who balanced writing college application letters and AP courses with rehearsals, said in an email she really resonated with her character.

“In today’s world, it’s hard not to recognize the danger our environment is in, especially since access to the internet has made it even easier for people my age to stay informed and involved in current events,” Rudmann wrote. “I love activism and am constantly inspired by how diligently both my peers and students all around the world are working to make the world a better place.”

Evan Hamilton, who plays Nora’s best friend, Henry, also felt a deeply personal connection to his role.

“Since this was a new show, and I had the opportunity to be the first person to play Henry Walden, I was able to mold the character to fit me and not vice versa,” Hamilton said in an email. “Environmental activism is not something I have personally been involved with, but my father is an environmental lawyer for the Army, so it’s a topic I hear a lot about, and feel very strongly about.”

“TREES: A New Musical” is a wonderfully entertaining production with a powerful message: We could all benefit from listening to the voices of young people. And it makes it all that much easier to listen to when the message is sung in a catchy melody by a superb cast of performers.

The world premiere of “TREES: A New Musical” was performed over three showings at the Bethesda Little Theatre on October 27 and 28.
Weekly Words

ACROSS
1 Enjoy a soak
6 It might be dropped unexpectedly on a date, in slang
11 Fall bloomer
16 Theater worker
17 "Everything okay?"
19 Jewish mourning period
20 Cut wool from a sheep
21 Brass instrument akin to a euphonium
23 Mr. Spock's forte
24 Carried
25 Rollerblade product
27 Place for a French beret
30 Punjabi music genre
32 Lubricates
33 Unreactive, like some gases
38 Cash drawer
39 The "A" of A.D.
40 Popular East Coast homes
44 Guillible sort
46 Go backpacking, say
51 Middle East chieftain
52 Charged particles
53 "...real nowhere man" (Beatties lyric)
54 Voice that millions hear
55 Stimp'y's cartoon pal
56 Workout count
57 "I love," in Latin
60 Soprano Jenny, called the "Swedish Nightingale"
61 Environmental prefix
64 Westernmost Aleutian island
65 GPS precursor
66 Where Samson slew Philistines with a donkey's jawbone
67 French seasoning
68 Singer DiFranco
69 Deviled egg topping
72 Sheepskin boot brand
74 Does a graphic artist's job
76 Disney film set in Africa
77 A.D.
78 Happen again
79 Chanel fragrance
83 ____ nous (between us)
84 Included in an email
86 Palindromic lady's title
87 French seasoning
88 Full-length
89 Police officer
90 Hungarian philanthropist George
91 Not going to do it!
92 Singer Rita ___.
93 Wasted poster letters
96 Certain snake's poison
98 Alaska or Hawaii
99 Kimono closer
100 In shape
101 Kittens' cries
102 One of Alcott's "Little Women"
103 ____ nous (between us)
104 Smooch
105 Instrument for Bollywood soundtracks, often
106 Campaign pro
107 Kermit's solo in "The Muppet Movie" ... and this puzzle's theme
108 Put on TV
109 Gradually withdraw
110 Zippo
111 Animal in a pod
112 Old pro
113 Org. monitoring AQI
114 Toilets important to Wile E. Coyote
115 To the ___ degree
116 Poetic "before"
117 Down in the dumps

DOWN
1 Shrub
2 Hearth residue
3 Disney film set in Africa
4 Top draw
5 Make a goof
6 She played Jennifer on "WKRP in Cincinnati"
7 "...appetito!" ("Mangia!")
8 Shrek, for one
9 Scale that measures hardness
10 Tume
11 Gallaudet Univ. course
12 Toast holder?
13 Orange flowers
14 Politician played by Madonna
15 Go like the wind
16 Theater worker
17 Rant and rave
18 Lacking pizzazz
21 Letters important to Wile E. Coyote
22 To the ___ degree
25 Weight-___ (fight rituals)
26 Have a bite
29 "Evil Woman" rockers, familiarly
31 Palindromic diarist Anais
32 Word often with "neither"
33 ___ du Vent (Windward Islands)
34 Ltr. container
35 Coastal indentation
36 Dash gauge, for short
37 Confesses (to)
38 Perfect ___.
39 Anouk of "La Dolce Vita"
40 Commandeer
41 Confesses (to)
42 Fashion designer Bartley
43 Girl in "Calvin and Hobbes"
44 Viewpoints
45 Ludicrous comedy
46 ___ and now
47 Shell casing?
48 Bros' embrace
49 Shell casing?
50 Cello's ancestor
51 Middle East chieftain
52 Charged particles
53 "...real nowhere man" (Beatties lyric)
54 Voice that millions hear
55 Stimp'y's cartoon pal

Solutions from last week

HESSIE BROWN BANNON (94), of Alexandria, Nov. 5, 2023
CONRAD HENRY HISE (43), of Alexandria, Oct. 30, 2023
CANNING C. KRAFT (66), of Alexandria, Nov. 4, 2023
LINDA LEE REEVES (81), of Alexandria, Nov. 11, 2023
THOMAS LOCKE RUST III (79), of Alexandria, Nov. 6, 2023
BETSY GRAVES SMITH (93), of Alexandria, Nov. 3, 2023

COLORING OUTSIDE THE LINES by Kelly Clark & Jeff Chen, edited by Jeff Chen
Editorial

An Alexandria treasure

Each year, we’re reminded how special it is to have our own film festival in Alexandria.

During the pre-vaccine portion of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was the deft way the Alexandria Film Festival leadership took this totally in-person event and made it a stellar remote experience.

First, they did a total pivot from the usual in-person format and put all of the films online, which enabled viewers to watch them more than once safely from their homes. AFF also included many filmed question-and-answer sessions – which are the heart of the festival – at the end of the films.

During the Q&As, directors, writers, producers and actors share windows into their craft. When the festival is held in person, audience members ask the questions. At the height of the pandemic, AFF leaders conducted filmed interviews with the filmmakers and actors.

There was no dropoff in quality, and the festival provided a needed happy respite during those uncertain days.

The AFF topped that by next collaborating with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra to utilize grants awarded to filmmakers to create films that matched an array of compositions played by the ASO. It was a night to remember when the films were finally shown live accompanied by an ASO performance in the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center.

Each year, diehard film lovers buy all-festival passes for $80 and take in as many offerings as possible. Others are intrigued by one particular film and are happy with just seeing it. Still others are enticed by a particular theme to view an entire showcase.

We encourage viewers to watch entire showcases and not just the one film in it that originally caught their eye. Like browsing in a bookstore or reading a whole newspaper rather than ordering one book from Amazon or reading the single story about which the Washington Post sends you an alert – you literally don’t know what you’re missing if you don’t cast a wide net.

Be open to being charmed or amazed, educated or overwhelmed by unexpected delights when you view multiple films in a showcase.

For example, perhaps you attended the student film showcase on November 10 at The Beatley Library mainly to see the documentary “Arming the Left” or the fiction short film “Flowers Die First” – but also watched the rest of the showcase.

If so, you would have been “udderly” charmed by the exquisite 13-minute film “Hoof Trimmer” by Kate Woods and amused by the 11-minute short documentary “Whirled of an Artist” by filmmaker Brodhi Ethan Bryan-Roig about his talented and authentic uncle.

The AFF is blessed to have long-time leadership, particularly Executive Director Patti North, who co-founded the festival 17 years ago, former Chair Margaret Wohler and current Chair Dara Sanders. This festival is a labor of love for these special ladies, and for the many others who volunteer their time, year after year, to bring this delightful slice of culture to Alexandria.

And if you’re reading this and wondering what all the hoopla is about, never fear: there’s always next year. Though if you’ve missed the AFF for 17 years straight, you might want to mark your 2024 calendar now for the second weekend in November.

Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson

History will repeat itself

To the editor:

In looking at the proposals for zoning reform, I am reminded that this is an old problem in Alexandria, and one that deserves time for reflection, piece by piece. We should not be surprised by what this legislation will bring, and the rush to a vote suggests unpleasant surprises.

I am a long-time resident of Alexandria, first moving in 1972 to Parkfairfax, and in 1978 to Rosemont. Parkfairfax was then not only affordable, but had open space for residents to enjoy. When Arlen Realty planned to tear it down and build high–rises, my late husband, Richard Levy, along with many other residents, fought to prevent its destruction.

Fortunately former Mayor Charles Beatley and City Council listened to our concerns and now Parkfairfax is a historic district in the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. What would be its fate today?

My office is just north of the low-income Heritage Apartments, where I have witnessed the displacement of tenants there and where I will watch the construction of its gigantic replacement. I see history repeating itself, but this time with an unhappy ending, so I get nervous when I see a rush to judgment.

I would probably benefit financially from the proposed reforms because single-family housing would comprise an even smaller percentage of the total. I expect that the value of my house – and especially of my land – would suffer in schools that are already much too large and in parks that are too few and too small, and who will likely have to pay higher taxes to support the needed infrastructure and increased services.

There is much to consider before voting.

Sandra Levy
Alexandria

Letters

History will repeat itself

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Alexandria

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

To the editor:

Historic Alexandria Foundation opposes the proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance that have been submitted to City Council for consideration because they will have an irreversible negative impact on the vast historic resources present throughout our city. We urge all citizens and members of Council to oppose their adoption.

Historic Alexandria Foundation was formed in 1954 “to preserve, protect and restore structures and sites of historic or architectural interest in and associated with the city of Alexandria to preserve antiquities, and generally to foster and promote interest in Alexandria’s historic heritage.”

We provide tens of thousands of dollars in grants each year to support worthy and important historical research, scholarships, and restoration work on historic properties throughout the city. Our membership includes property owners throughout the city of Alexandria. As such, we are disappointed to see that the major changes proposed to the Zoning Ordinance make no apparent effort to protect the treasured historic resources of our city.

While the National Landmark status of the Old and Historic District and the Park-Gray District of Alexandria is widely recognized, the historic resources of our city extend beyond the confines of those Landmark Districts. We are blessed with a panoply of nationally recognized and state designated historic places including:

- The Town of Potomac, with 690 listed contributing properties;
- The Rosemont Historic District, with 458 listed contributing properties;
- The Parkfairfax Historic District, with 288 listed contributing properties;
- The Fairlington Historic District, with 1,024 listed contributing properties;

In addition to these properties, the African American Heritage Resources of Alexandria Multiple Property Documentation documents the city-wide presence of important African-American heritage properties, and the fact many such properties have been inadequately identified and documented to date. An HAF-funded grant provided support for the research underlying the African American Heritage Resources of Alexandria Multiple Property Documentation application, among others.

Consideration also needs to be given to the numerous buildings that are recognized as requiring protection on the city’s list of 100-Year-Old Buildings. HAF is proud to have provided direct financial support to the city of Alexandria’s identification and nomination of properties for the statewide and national recognition that they deserve.

As hard as it is to recall, most of what is now recognized as the city’s most valuable housing stock was not so long ago viewed as a decaying slum slated for wide-scale demolition. Contributing to these derelict conditions was the fact that many townhouses – including those neighboring City Hall – were broken up into boarding houses with one-room “cold-water flats.”

Thankfully, the vibrant and desirable city we now enjoy was made possible through successful historic preservation and the number of years they had lived here.

Contempt for the longtime resident

Mayor Justin Wilson and a few other elected officials are responding to a flood of constituent letters from longtime residents opposing Zoning for Housing with the trite and dismissive statement, “We should not delay for the sake of delay.”

It reflects a specious argument for moving full speed ahead to the scheduled November 28 City Council vote without any semblance of community consensus.

For many longtime residents, it seems like the city is rushing for the sake of rushing. But this difference in perspective reveals something else: an apparent contempt for longtime residents.

Witness the comments made at the recent Planning Commission public hearing. Of the speakers favoring the proposals, nine represented special interests and a number of others are young adult newcomers to the city. None spoke of their long experience in the city, but rather to their activist causes, or selfishly to what they want from the city. As if the rest of us owe them something.

Their comments were high on rhetoric and low on local insight, including these directed at longtime residents: “change is inevitable,” “we should welcome new neighbors,” “we need to do our part for the region,” “we need to address past racism that still exists” and even “love thy neighbor.”

Yet no one has seen more societal change in their lifetimes than our more tenured residents.

They have welcomed new neighbors for decades with open arms. With their support, Alexandria has done more for the region’s lower income residents than any other Northern Virginia jurisdiction continuously since the 1970s.

They have supported increased diversity in all of our neighborhoods and our public schools. And they have been the stalwarts of city boards and local charities that do the most for lower income residents.

Seemingly discounted in both Council responses and the Planning Commission hearing is the voice of the longtime resident. Years ago, I noticed that most public hearing speakers introduced themselves with their name and the number of years they had lived here.

It seemed like an odd custom, but it mattered to city officials.

Officials then – and really up to about five years ago – knew that longtime residents were truly committed to this city. When they stated their “number,” they were essentially saying, “I’ve lived here a long time, so I’m all in. I care deeply, and I’m not going anywhere.”

Officials knew what they would hear next: a perspective on the issue that few if any newcomers could offer.

Still today, the longtime resident can be counted on to bring that wisdom and insight. Contrast the comments of the cause-driven advocates to what most of the longtime residents had to say. A veteran of city housing boards for many years spoke to changes in things like setbacks and floor area ratios and called out city officials for saying their “modest” changes are actually “sweeping.” She would know.

A 22-year veteran of the Planning Commission and former chairman pointed out what should be obvious, that one of the most drastic changes in the proposals is really about “eliminating single family neighborhoods” and that the whole package of proposals “would do nothing to address affordability.” He would know.

Those comments came from a place of experience and true insight. Yet, they fell mostly on deaf ears as the commission voted overwhelmingly to recommend the package to City Council.

Contempt for the longtime resident seems endemic among our officials and some younger newcomers who don’t consistently live the saying “love thy neighbor.”

So as city officials work to justify largely ill-advised giveaways to developers and commit to overpopulating this already very dense city, the longtime resident is left to wonder how we got here. How did disrespect of those most committed to Alexandria replace valuing their wisdom and insight?

Perhaps the newcomers who spoke at the planning commission hearing can enlighten us all on that.
Planning Commission shows disdain for residents

To the editor:

As a child, I loved the myths and fairy tales that are part of youth. But, as an adult, I prefer data-based realities, especially when it comes to public policy decisions that affect us all. As former Rep. Barney Frank often said, “You are free to have your own opinions, but not your own facts.”

After listening to five-and-a-half hours of testimony before the Planning Commission on November 1, I was struck by the lack of reality and the complete disdain the Commissioners had for the citizenry.

There were 52 people who testified – roughly half were for the 152-page, staff-driven report and half were not. The dissenters were invisible to the chair and to his colleagues. And, at times, Planning Commission Chair Nate Macek even ignored relevant and critical questions from his own members, as he and his colleagues steamrollered ahead.

How can you make decisions without answering these critical inquiries from your own board, much less give any recognition to those generated by the in-person and Zoom audiences?

Half of the attendees pleaded with the Commission to delay this vote until the outstanding questions were resolved. But Commissioners refused to even delay it by one week. City Council should NOT vote reflexively on November 28 on a plan with more holes than Swiss Cheese.

Council must demand factual answers, not myths or fairy tales. Ironically, one of the commissioners who attended via Zoom for the entire five-and-a-half hours, did so without a single comment. How odd is that for a crucial debate? Why did she join a voluntary, unpaid Commission, if she had nothing to say?

A foretaste of the outcome of the Nov. 1 hearing was provided by Commissioner Stephen Koenig on October 23 when he spoke to a standing-room only session of Agenda Alexandria. He unabashedly declared he had “no intention” of reading the entire 152-page staff document, “line by line.” And Koenig said he had “no qualms” about voting for it in its entirety, without reading it.

Why did Council willingly appoint people who appear to have no time or interest to participate in the process? None of the seven should be assumed to be representing all citizens, in a neutral, thoughtful, questioning manner. They were more like lobbyists for the staff.

That attitude was enforced by the fact that the city disclosed it had spent $100,000, working against the residents, with billboard signs throughout the West End that they were “creating” a whole new part of town – with a bullying tone of intrusion and not inclusion.

At no point in the hearing was there any disclosure about what individual(s) are spearheading this perceived false urgency to rush this through. Nor was it disclosed who had pushed this crisis mentality. Does the Council of Governments run Alexandria, and are the taxpayers merely an invisible component?

Amazing throughout the hearing was the lack of any transparent support for the presumed goal: affordable housing. The most enthusiastic of the 26 supporters for erasing Single Family Zoning had no realistic ideas on how this goal would be accomplished. By knocking down houses? There is a myth that many “new” units will arise from the ashes, like the Phoenix.

“Housing for All” is like the concept of “Healthcare for All,” and the goal of “May your children be smart and good-looking.” But these are aspirational goals, not stable and substantive ones and proponents have no clue what it will cost and who will pay for it.

Similarly, some supporters of upending regulations on zoning, density and height restrictions, repeatedly voiced the “wish” to create a “Walkable City” in Alexandria, where everyone would ban cars and walk or bicycle or scooter to their distant destination. This may be possible in parts of Old Town or in segments of Del Ray, but not in a city that already has the highest density in the state. The city plan presuming everyone is in excellent health and can walk miles. It ignores the fact that many people do not have public transit access to work, school, child care, grocery shopping and daily destinations.

Because members of the Planning Commission are appointed, they do not have to be held accountable to the public for their votes. But incumbent members of the City Council must stand before voters in 2024 elections and justify these appointments – and their own votes on this issue.

City Council members and city staff need to take time for a thoughtful review and perspective, which was totally lacking by the Planning Commission on November 1.

-Kathleen Burns, Alexandria

Many questions, few answers in ZFH

To the editor:

It’s easy to see why a city as generous and caring as Alexandria has conflicted residents on the proposal for zoning. But before anything is set in stone, there are questions and history lessons that the current City Council and residents must know and consider.

1. Why do our property taxes continue to rise much faster than inflation and neighboring areas? Has there been an audit of the city government to ensure that the large number of upper level employees are providing a needed service, especially since we lack police strength, inadequate parking and traffic enforcement, poor street and sewer maintenance?

2. Why isn’t Alexandria emulating Arlington in pursuing commercial development instead of more residential buildings? It is a known economic fact that commercial properties require fewer city services such as police, schools and hospitals. Adding commercial property would take the burden off city services – which already need improving – and reduce property taxes that are squeezing middle income budgets.

3. Why has Alexandria given up so much housing for really low income residents? In 2002, Alexandria turned the Berg over to a developer who created Chatham Square. I and others wrote letters to the Washington Post and testified that this property should not be taken away from the very poor people who were housed there. While 50 public housing units were retained, the children living there lost their playground.

4. Why does this zoning plan include more housing but few parking spaces despite the fact that most of us own cars?

According to the National Automobile Dealers’ 2020 and 2019 data, only 8.5% of households don’t have a vehicle. In Virginia, 93.9% of households own at least one, and the average number of vehicles owned is 2.4. How many city employees and City Council members only use public transportation and don’t own a car?

5. Why isn’t Alexandria fixing its schools so low income children can move up the earning ladder when they graduate? Alexandria City Schools have been underperforming for many years, so the COVID-19 excuse no longer holds water. If we want middle income residents or families to be able to live here in Alexandria, we need to give them a quality education now.

6. Why are there no design standards? We continue to destroy the ambiance of this beautiful historic city and threaten our walkable neighborhoods, like Del Ray and Rosemont. To show how credible this question is, a mother at a local coffee shop overheard me discussing this topic. She offered that while driving north on Route 1, her nine-year-old son asked her why “they were building all those prisons.” Out of the mouth of babes! And yet, I was told by the planning office there would be no design standards.

In conclusion, it seems to me these questions should be pondered and answered by appropriate city government officials before moving forward with a zoning plan that appears to benefit developers and property owners, but does nothing to protect and preserve our neighborhoods, improve infrastructure and provide quality education.

-Linda Couture, Alexandria
The return of cider

Alexandria celebrates Virginia Cider Week November 11 through 20. A long-time favorite of those who crossed the Atlantic from England to Virginia and their descendants, hard cider was perceived in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as the fermented drink of the lower classes.

Despite that reputation, cideries have continued to operate in the Commonwealth throughout its history. The 2012 designation of Virginia Cider Week highlights not only hard cider's renaissance as a drink of choice but the long and continued tradition of cider-making in our state. Similarly, the region of Normandy – which includes Alexandria’s sister city of Caen – also has a historic cider tradition.

Alexandrians from previous centuries consumed cider regularly, as evidenced by advertisements in newspapers, such as the Alexandria Gazette. For example, on Dec. 5, 1863, during the middle of the Civil War, R.H. Gemeny took out an ad saying that he had just received 20 barrels of pure apple cider. Others, such as George H. Robinson, advertised a crab apple cider that probably combined methods and materials from the New and Old Worlds.

What caused cider’s decline? According to experts, the Industrial Revolution and changing tastes influenced by a growing immigrant population that preferred beer to cider was the first blow to cider production and consumption. Prohibition dealt a fatal blow to many orchards and cideries in the 20th century.

In this century, after decades of being overlooked in favor of other fermented drinks, cider is making a comeback in the United States. To highlight its renaissance, and to draw attention to Virginia’s long history with the drink, the Virginia General Assembly established Virginia Cider Week on Sept. 5, 2012. Joint Resolution 105 designated the full week before Thanksgiving as Virginia Cider Week not just in 2012, but in each succeeding year.

The bill recognized cider’s role in early Virginia, its favor in the eyes of Thomas Jefferson, its decline due to industrialization and prohibition and its rebirth in this century. According to Virginia Cider Week:

“Virginia hard apple cider can be up to 10% alcohol by volume, without chapitalization (adding sugar to the juice). Any fermented apple juice above 10% alcohol must be labeled ‘apple wine.’ According to current law, a cider cannot have more than 7% alcohol when chapitalized.”

Alexandria’s sister city, Caen, France, also has a vibrant cider tradition. Normandy, the region of which Caen is the capital, includes the only “Route du Cidre,” a 40-kilometer loop marked by signs with an apple. Cider producers in Normandy often also produce calvados, an apple brandy that is cider distilled for two years in oak casks.

This year’s Alexandria Cider Festival will be held November 18. Advance tickets can be purchased online at alexandriava.gov/shop for $55 or at the door for $65. Tickets include cider tastings, a souvenir glass, live music and a little history. While enjoying a selection of Virginia ciders, learn more about the growing Virginia cider industry and its connection to Alexandria history. The Alexandria Cider Festival includes offerings from Albemarle Cider Works, Bryant’s Cider, Castle Hill, Ciders from Mars, Henway Hard Cider, Lost Boy Cider, Potter’s Craft Cider and Sage Bird Ciderworks. A Rocklands food truck will be at the event.

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

HISTORIC ALX FROM | 27

rehabilitation of our irreplaceable historic housing stock.

Article XI of the Constitution of Virginia (1971) specifically adopts as the public policy of the Commonwealth the conservation of our historical sites and buildings. The City Charter of Alexandria and the State repeatedly provide the city with the powers necessary to protect this heritage.

The Virginia Zoning Code expressly requires that the city “protect against destruction of or encroachment upon historic areas,” Va. Code § 15.2-2285(v), and “to protect against …. overcrowding of land, undue density of population in relation to community facilities existing or available, obstruction of light and air, danger and congestion in travel and transportation…” Va. Code § 15.2-2285(vi).

All of these considerations weigh against the adoption of the proposed ordinance changes before council.

We at HAF join in the call by Art Deco Society of Washington and others to implore the city to “slow down and move more deliberately, and to examine the impact that this proposal would have on the city’s historic buildings and districts before approving them.”

-Morgan D. Delaney president, Historic Alexandria Foundation

Weekly Poll

Last Week
Where should cleaning up Alexandria's toxic waste sites on the waterfront rank among our city's priorities?

Due to technical difficulties, we were not able to post results to last week’s poll. We will include the results in next week’s paper.

This Week
How should City Council vote at its Nov. 28 meeting on the Zoning for Housing proposal?

A) They should pass it all.
B) They should vote no to everything.
C) They should defer the proposal.
D) They should pass part of it and defer the rest.
**LEGAL NOTICE**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR PIERCE COUNTY**

*In the Matter of the Adoption of*  
KENALI JAMELLE ATTIDORE  
*(DOB: May 26, 2011)*

A child under the age of eighteen.

No. 23-5-00504-6

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP**

TO: Reggie Harris and any other man who may claim a parent-child relationship with the above-named child.

The petitioner has filed a petition in this court requesting that any parent-child relationship between you and the above-named child be terminated. The child was born on May 26, 2011 in Alexandria, Arlington County, Virginia. The mother of the child, whose name was Jacqueline Chanelle Attidore when the child was born, has consented to the stepparent adoption of the child by the petitioner, who is her spouse.

The court has set the time and place of the court hearing on the petition to terminate your parent-child relationship. That court hearing will be on Friday, December 15, 2023 at 9:00 AM at Pierce County Juvenile Court, 5501 Sixth Avenue, Tacoma, Washington 98406.

As an alleged father of the child, you have the right to file a claim of paternity under RCW 26.26A or 26.26B and to seek custody of the child, to support the child, and to seek to establish a parent-child relationship.

You have the right to be represented by counsel and counsel will be appointed for an indigent person who requests counsel.

Your failure to appear at the hearing referred to above or to respond to this Notice or the Petition for Termination of Parent-Child Relationship within 30 days of the date of first publication of this Notice will result in the court entering an order terminating your parent-child relationship without further notice.

One method of responding to this Notice is to send your response to the Clerk of the Court whose address appears below and to the attorney for the petitioner at the address below by certified mail with return receipt requested.

You are further notified that if the child named above is an Indian child and if you acknowledge paternity of the child or if your paternity of the child is established prior to the termination of the parent-child relationship, your parental rights may not be terminated unless you (i) give valid consent to termination, or (ii) your parent-child relationship is terminated involuntarily pursuant to chapter 26.33 or 13.34 RCW.

DATED and signed this 3rd day of November, 2023.

MICHELE GENTRY HINZ – WSBA #8449
Attorney for Petitioner

Mailing address and Telephone Number of Attorney for Petitioner:
Michele Gentry Hinz
Attorney at Law
33035 – 52ND Ave. S.
Auburn, WA 98001-3622
(253) 740-0667

Mailing Address of Clerk of Court:
Pierce County Superior Court Clerk
County-City Building
930 Tacoma Avenue South, Room 110
Tacoma, WA 98402-2177

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, held at City Hall, 301 King Street, Council Chamber and on Zoom webinar on Saturday, November 18, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described item.

Public Hearing and Consideration of a First Amendment to a Five-Year License Agreement dated November 1, 2022, between the City of Alexandria, Virginia and Crown Castle Fiber, LLC. to Permit Crown Castle to construct and install an additional enterprise fiber route of approximately 400 feet in the City of Alexandria’s Virginia Public Rights-of-Ways.

THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL (LIMITED COPIES AVAILABLE). If the mayor finds and declares that weather or other conditions are such that it is hazardous for members to attend the meeting, this meeting will be continued to the following Saturday: GLORIA SITTON, CMC, CITY CLERK

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

** seekers QUALIFIED SUBCONTRACTORS**

The Hanover Company is seeking qualified subcontractors to bid on their Springfield Town Center project. The project consists of a seven-story concrete and wood frame podium apartment building, and associated work. The project is expected to commence in April of 2024. Interested parties should submit a bid on the website Hanoverco.com. Please include background information on your company including your safety EMR, similar completed projects and references.

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**Senior System Architect Global Solutions Needed**

MGM technology partners is looking for a Senior System Architect Global Solutions, to work at its Alexandria, VA office as a tech architect & design s/w solutions & architecture concepts, incl sys sizing, infrastructure & h/w selection, & sys integration concepts. Must have Master’s Deg, or frgn equiv, in CS, IT, Physics, or rhd field. Must have 10 yrs of exp w/ (1) working as a tech lead, proj mgr, or architect in mlmpl lg cmplx enterprise IT/software projs w/ the corresponding proj mgmt tools such as MS Proj, MS Visio, MS Office Suite, Atlassian Jira, Atlassian Confluence Wiki, or similar; (2) designing, bdg & selling s/w architecture, incl (a) sys sizing, (b) h/w selection processes, (c) envrnt mgmt, & (d) nwk & sys landscape integration; & (3) data modelling, & integrating & managing background w/ relational db such as DB2, Oracle, & MS SQL. Must also have 5 yrs of exp w/ (1) eCommerce plftrms or prl frameworks like SAP hybris, Intershop or Lifery; (2) DevOps concepts, build & deployment rhld tasks, incl (a) mgmt of distributed sys & clusters, (b) envrnt maint, (c) OS Ivl sys, & (d) IT infrastructure mgmt; (3) dsgn, architecture & implement of authentication & authorization algorithms; & (4) query & s/w design like SQL, Perl, Unix Shell. Must be fluent in English & German to allow for providing s/w architecture PM tasks to teams in US & Germany. 10% domestic trvl & 10% intl trvl req. Use case is part of app process. To apply pls forward your resume & cover letter to our recruiting team at mgm-tp.us@mgm-tp.com.

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The Holidays are approaching

Everyone’s favorite time of the year! Family and friends gather together to enjoy great holiday foods and create fabulous festivities.

This may be a good time to find a new place in which to make and share new holiday memories.

Both buyers and sellers agree that my persistence and great understanding of their needs allows me to find the best match possible.

I can help you find a home for many more holidays to come. I’d love to show you.

mason bavin