City leaders send ‘wish list’ to Richmond

Divided government makes passage of new legislation uncertain

BY MARK EATON

Alexandria’s Legislative Director Sarah Graham Taylor and members of City Council are unsure how much of the city’s “wish list” has a chance of enactment during this year’s General Assembly session, which began January 10, though the odds of passage increased when Democrats gained control of both the Senate and House of Delegates in the November election.

Only twice in the last 20 years has Council passed along a legislative package to a General Assembly with Democratic majorities in both chambers. In the same time span, Republicans controlled both houses of the General Assembly 12 times – and the legislature was politically split the other years.

The 2024 session’s legislative accomplishments are likely to be defined by the areas, if any, where the modest Democratic majorities agree with Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin. Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson wrote in an email that the session should be entertaining though perhaps not wildly productive.

“This will be an interesting session, with narrow margins in both houses and divided government. I imagine there will be many vetoes and the budget will be most of the action,” Wilson wrote.

Eventful public hearing looms

Contentious issues slated for final consideration

BY CAITLYN MEISNER

City Council is holding a public hearing Saturday and is planning to discuss and vote on several issues of importance, including the controversial 301 N. Fairfax St. redevelopment proposal, Confederate street renaming and a special use permit on a lot in Del Ray.

The proposed new residential development at 301 N. Fairfax St., which is currently an office building from the 1970s, has been hotly opposed by nearby residents.

The redevelopment plan was scheduled to go before Council in mid-December 2023, shortly after the Planning Commission’s 4-3 vote to approve on Dec. 5, 2023, to restructure its finances. At the time of publication, the stock price has dropped to 5 cents per share, a massive decline from its peak at $259 in March 2021.

Bird is also the largest scooter operator in Alexandria, with a cap of 450 scooters and 150 e-bikes.

“We are making progress toward profitability and aim to accelerate that progress by right-sizing our capital structure through this restructuring,” Bird’s Interim CEO Michael Washinushi said in a press release. “We remain focused on our mission to make cities more livable by using micro mobility to reduce car usage, traffic and carbon emissions.”
KALORAMA
2208 Q St NW, DC 20008
Active Listing
$2,700,000 | 5 Beds | 6 Baths
Chris Perry | 301.254.5411
Chris.Perry@cbmove.com

OLD TOWN
401 S Union St, Alexandria, VA 22314
Just Sold
$1,760,000 | 4 Beds | 3.5 Baths
Greg Doherty | 703.408.5068
Greg.Doherty@cbmove.com

RIVER VIEW AT MOUNT VERNON
9056 Tower House Place, Alexandria, VA 22308
Just Sold
$1,600,000 | 5 Beds | 4.5 Baths
Greg Doherty | 703.408.5068
Greg.Doherty@cbmove.com

STRATFORD LANDING
2604 Culpeper Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308
Open Sunday
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Tracy Vitali | 904.505.1874
Tracy.Vitali@cbmove.com

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Just Listed/Open House
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Steven Peterson announces mayoral run

Steven Peterson, former president of the Peterson Companies real estate development firm, told ALXNow on January 11 he will run for mayor as a Democrat. He said he plans to officially launch his candidacy in February. He joins Vice Mayor Amy Jackson and City Councilor Alyia Gaskins in the June Democratic primary.

Peterson's family is known to be Republican, but said he has stayed out of politics. His father, Milton Peterson, was a major real estate developer in the DMV, including National Harbor in Maryland, for which Steven Peterson was project manager. Peterson told the Washington Business Journal his background in real estate makes him a good match for the city in a time of major development. Peterson lives in Old Town with his wife and their children.

cmeisner@alextimes.com

Ebbin, Bennett-Parker answer arena questions

State Senator Adam Ebbin and House Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker attended a town hall held by the Del Ray Citizens Association to discuss the proposed Potomac Yard arena and entertainment district. With the 2024 General Assembly session commencing on January 8, Ebbin and Bennett-Parker answered resident questions. Alexandria Economic Development Partnership CEO and President, Stephanie Landrum, presented additional details and context. The town hall was recorded and is available on YouTube.

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City warns of potential measles exposure

The Alexandria Health Department sent a release Monday stating anyone traveling through Dulles International Airport or Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in early January may have been exposed to measles. The warning was initially sent by the Virginia Health Department.

Those traveling at the international arrivals area at Dulles on January 3 between 4 and 8 p.m. and Terminal A of National Airport between 2:30 and 6:30 p.m. may have been exposed.

According to AHD, exposed people who have had two doses of a measles-containing vaccine or were born before 1957 do not need to take action. Those who are not fully vaccinated and born after 1957 who were potentially exposed should watch out for symptoms until January 25; these include a runny nose, fevers above 101 degrees Fahrenheit, cough, watery red eyes and a rash.

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Virginia Tech campus opening delayed to 2025

Virginia Tech News announced Tuesday the Innovation Campus at Potomac Yard will be delayed until spring 2025 due to supply chain issues. It was planned to open in fall 2024 for graduate students to start classes. Students will remain at the Falls Church campus until the new campus is complete and open.

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NAACP dedicates book nook for MLK

The Alexandria chapter of the NAACP, the nation’s oldest civil rights organization, held a book nook dedication event at the Charles Houston Recreation Center in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, according to chapter event chair Keisha Brooks. The event was held Saturday and over 600 books were dedicated, including works by local authors. More than 200 books were given to the youth in attendance. The NAACP chapter paired with the Alexandria West Rotary Club and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Zeta Chi Omega chapter to provide dictionaries.
E-SCOOTERS

Bird suffered a series of setbacks prior to this move. Founder Travis VanderZanden left the company entirely on June 30, 2023, after previously stepping down from his roles as president and CEO in 2022. Initially valued at $2.5 billion, Bird’s stock began to free fall soon after going public in 2021 with no sign of recovering, which ultimately led to the company being delisted from the New York Stock Exchange in September 2023.

Sean Martin, shared mobility planner for Alexandria’s Transportation & Environmental Services Department, said he’s aware of Bird’s struggles. “Bird has been with us pretty much since the beginning. It was a bit of a surprise [but] they [gave] us a little bit of advance notice,” Martin said. “I’ve been in communication with them regarding their future plans and how they went back to the city, and they’ve reassured me that they do not intend to change up their operations at all.”

Alexandria currently allows up to 1,200 scooters and 800 e-bikes. The three companies currently operating in the city, in addition to Bird, include Lime, with a cap of 205 scooters and 100 e-bikes; Superpedestrian/Link, with a cap of 285 scooters; and Spin, which has a cap of 260 scooters.

Bird is not the only company to face troubles in the market. Spin, which fell under Bird’s umbrella following an acquisition last fall, has also filed for bankruptcy alongside Bird. Superpedestrian recently ceased operations in the U.S on Dec. 31, 2023, with leadership expressing internally they planned to recall all scooters by the end of 2023.

According to a Dec. 15, 2023 report from TechCrunch, Superpedestrian Director of U.S. Market Operations Alexander Berg notified staff on a Zoom call that the company would be closing down due to financial issues. With only 18 months on the market and having raised $125 million in equity, many believed Superpedestrian was poised to be a success, which makes the sudden closure all the more surprising.

The Times has reached out to Martin with follow up on whether Superpedestrian has recalled scooters from the city, but did not receive a response by our publication deadline.

Public opinion on dockless mobility remains largely divided. Users tout these devices as an easy-to-use, eco-friendly alternative to automobiles. Critics, however, argue the scooters may pose a danger to pedestrians, especially when they’re parked improperly, and to users who ride without helmets.

Shawn Eyer, a nonprofit professional in Alexandria, is an avid rider of e-scooters. “I’ll admit I could have bought three or four scooters with the money I’ve spent on Bird, but it’s very convenient not to have to stop and lock it up,” Eyer said.

Eyer said these devices have been a big help to him ever since he first started using them in 2017. “[On] a given day, it’s very common I have three or four places to be in a one-mile radius, and the scooters are extremely efficient. I would say more so than driving a passenger car to those destinations, both in terms of time spent parking and even in terms of navigating the streets,” Eyer said. “I am certain that on an annual basis, the scooters are saving me full workdays of time. And for someone like me, that’s very important. I need to be efficient, and I need to be as productive as possible.”

On the other side of the debate, there are many who say they do not like e-scooters, often due to safety concerns. In a letter to the editor published by the Washington Post, Washington, D.C. resident Elaine Zuppe shared a recent experience where she was injured due to a parked e-scooter.

“I was walking on 11th Street NW turning right on E Street NW this month when I tripped over the back wheel of an improperly parked scooter and literally went flying. I suffered bruises to my arm, chest and ribs,” Zuppe wrote. “For residents such as me, a woman in her mid-70s, that fall could have been deadly. I enjoy the life of [the district], but the scooters are making it difficult to stay.”

The Times saw a similar split of opinions when asking residents for their perspectives on Nextdoor. One user commented how she enjoys “seeing the glee on people’s faces while they are riding these scooters around town,” to which an-
Recently the Alexandria City Council removed the name of former Alexandria Mayor Col. John Fitzgerald from the park at the foot of King Street on Alexandria’s waterfront due to the fact that he was a slave owner. As Americans today, we realize that slavery was morally reprehensible, inhumane and heartless. However, many citizens of Fitzgerald’s time believed since it was legal it was acceptable. It took President Abraham Lincoln’s leadership to put an end to this crime against humanity.

Fast forward 155 years to 2019 and look at what took place last week in Virginia’s General Assembly. Several of Virginia’s elected representatives put forward a bill that would have loosened abortion restrictions to make it easier for a full-term, nine-month un-born child to be aborted up until the time of delivery. Our governor, Ralph Northam, even implied the child could be killed in some cases after being delivered.

A recent Gallop poll shows more than 80 percent of Americans think third trimester abortions should be illegal and a much higher percentage oppose abortion up until the time of delivery. Virginia’s elected leaders, who are advocating for abortion extremism, are not representing their constituents but working for the pro-abortion lobby that funds their campaigns and donated more than $5 million to Northam alone.

Abortion is not a political issue, but a human rights issue. Where are we as a country and a Commonwealth when our elected leaders are proposing these inhumane laws allowing abortion up until the time of birth?

A few generations from now, long after the Supreme Court has made abortion illegal, Americans will look back on this dark period in American history that took place from 1973 until the early 2020’s. Many of these modern-day, pro-abortion politicians will be dealing with public ridicule similar to that being heaped on former slave owner and Alexandria Mayor Col. John Fitzgerald.

Just like slavery, abortion of a full-term, unborn child is morally reprehensible, inhumane and heartless. Evil will always lurk when good people do nothing. As we learned from slavery, just because something is legal does not make it right.

—Frank Fannon, Former member, Alexandria City Council
other user replied, expressing her frustration over how fast riders go and how “they don’t even park them on the side of the sidewalk or road. Just drop and go. No regard for people or other people’s property.”

In a September 2023 report from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, which compiled data from 2017 through 2022 analyzing injuries and deaths from micromobility devices, there have been about 111 deaths linked to e-scooters, with dockless/rental e-scooters making up 18 of those deaths. The report also found that e-scooters led to about 169,300 injury-related emergency room visits, with dockless/rental e-scooters contributing to 29,200 of those visits. The report cautions that the numbers related to injuries may be underestimated, as some of the e-scooters involved may not have been identified at the time as dockless/rental by medical personnel.

Inappropriate parking is a common sentiment shared by critics. Even as a fan of the scooters, Eyer admits that riders could do better when it comes to parking, but pushes back on the framework of the critique.

“Let’s say some wonderful summer day when people are out scootering, are the number of scooters parked inappropriately that block sidewalks or bike lanes or any other motive mode of personal travel – does that number exceed the number of automobiles that block something on that day in the city of Alexandria?” Eyer said. “It’s impossible for that answer to be that the scooters are blocking more people than the cars. So even that argument is rather weak.”

On Dec. 21, 2023, Wired released an article breaking down the harsh conditions fleet managers for Bird have endured over the past several years. Eyer said he was disappointed when he read about how Bird allegedly treated their fleet managers.

“The article that I read characterized Bird’s practices as extremely cavalier toward the people who actually keep the fleet of scooters running,” Eyer said. “These are contractors who invest in vans and equipment, and the capacity to repair the scooters all falls on them. I was dismayed when I read about those practices.”

In a Dec. 21, 2023, article by The Verge, transportation editor Andrew J. Hawkins argued that, despite Bird filing for bankruptcy and Superpedestrian shutting down, the micromobility industry is “doing just fine.” Hawkins argued Bird’s
E-SCOOTERS

problems are reflective of their financial mismanagement and not the industry as a whole, citing the National Association of City Transportation Officials’ 2022 report where the data showed that dockless mobility trips have largely been on the rise post-pandemic.

Eyer expressed a similar sentiment to Hawkins. “I can’t weigh in on any particular company’s viability, but I believe that it should be possible to structure a viable business model around app-driven e-scooter rentals,” Eyer said.

Still, the future for dockless mobility remains unclear. Paris banned rental e-scooters on Sept. 1, 2023. San Diego, which had four e-scooter operators just a year ago, has since seen an exodus of these micromobility companies. Bird was the last company to leave in November 2023, citing high fines and “onerous regulations,” according to Maggie Hoffman, Bird’s vice president of city growth and strategy, who spoke with the San Francisco Chronicle.

The city of Alexandria hopes to keep e-scooters in place, particularly because of the Vision Zero initiative. The Vision Zero city initiative was implemented in December 2017 with a stated goal of eliminating all deaths and severe injuries related to traffic by 2028. The city government’s official page notes, “over 150 people were killed or severely injured in traffic crashes in Alexandria between 2017 and 2021” while stating that all these deaths were preventable.

Permits for the four e-scooter companies operating in Alexandria are valid until March 31, 2024. Martin said e-scooters can be a key tool in the city’s arsenal to reduce these traffic related deaths. “[Vision Zero is] a commitment to achieve a transportation system that has no traffic-related fatalities or serious injuries and e-scooters and e-bikes definitely play a role in that,” Martin said. “There’s always going to be concerns with safety for all road users, but scooters [are] definitely an important part in achieving that idea of Vision Zero.”

wsalih@alextimes.com

ALEXANDRIA

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JANUARY 19-28

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The General Assembly convenes this year in a “long” session – 60 days – because 2024 is an even-numbered year. In odd-numbered years, the General Assembly meets for 30 days, although the session is often extended to 45 days. This year’s session is slated to end on March 9.

There are numerous new faces in the General Assembly, including new senators and House of Delegates members from Northern Virginia.

The legislative package – a combination wish list, suggestions for government efficiencies and appeals to the state for help – is important because Virginia follows the Dillon Rule. This principle of municipal law mandates that localities have only the authority delegated or authorized to them by the state. Taylor said the city “has no inherent authority.”

“What do we want to spend political capital on?” Taylor, who is also an Alexandria Assistant City Manager, asked as she opened the Dec. 8, 2023, meeting of City Council’s Legislative Subcommittee.

The subcommittee consists of Wilson and Councilor R. Kirk McPike. Accompanied by City Manager James Parajon and city department representatives, they reviewed a “laundry list” of 101 legislative requests originating from boards and commissions, city departments, community organizations and Council members.

Wilson said there will be additional meetings of the subcommittee as bills are introduced in the General Assembly session. McPike said last year, Council traveled as a group to Richmond to meet with lawmakers about the city’s requests and priorities.

The 2024 legislative package
Alexandria’s draft legislative package was on Council’s Dec. 12, 2023, docket for consideration and a first reading.

The legislative package is organized in five categories. The categories, and examples of the requests in each one, are shown below.

Support of vulnerable and underserved populations
• The city supports efforts to address learning loss and chronic absenteeism among Virginia students, especially among disengaged youth and students with higher level, more specialized needs, including legislation to provide localities with the authority to regulate the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and to create incentive programs to encourage the adoption of energy efficient technologies, machinery and appliances.
• The city supports legislation to allow localities to supplement their Alcohol Safety Action Programs to charge a local administrative fee to offset shortfalls in their ASAP budgets.

Promoting clean and efficient energy
• The city supports efforts to expand provisions of the Virginia Clean Economy Act, with a focus on legislative strategies that provide a sustainable and reliable power grid while achieving lower emission levels associated with renewable energy sources in the Commonwealth.
• The city supports efforts to ensure that current funding sources for flood resilience and energy efficiency projects are, at a minimum, maintained and any funding that is removed is replaced, dollar-for-dollar, by a dedicated funding source.
• The city supports state investment in clean energy and energy efficiency, including funding for a State E-Bike rebate program and funding for the existing state vehicle program to complement the federal rebate program.

Local authority and funding for localities
• The city supports additional tools and authority to protect and expand the stock of affordable housing in the region and across the Commonwealth. It also supports legislation and budget items that facilitate a housing economy in Alexandria, and across Virginia, that helps provide the necessary range of price points, safe and sustainable housing options and the associated services to meet the needs of a thriving city and Commonwealth.
• The city supports legislation to provide localities with the authority to regulate the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and to create incentive programs to encourage the adoption of energy efficient technologies, machinery and appliances.
• The city supports legislation to authorize localities to

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2024 PACKAGE FROM | 8

seize illegally operated ATVs and off-road vehicles.

- The city supports legislation that makes it easier for law enforcement agencies to recruit, hire and retain officers, including recruiting and hiring non-citizens who have been in the country for five years and are on the path to citizenship.

Strengthening state and local partnerships

- The city supports legislation to extend the mandated July 1, 2025, deadline for the completion of the Alexandria combined sewer overflow project by one year and supports additional state investment in this generational infrastructure project.

- The city supports policies and investment that ensure the WMATA system is safe, reliable and financially sound and that addressing the WMATA funding gap is done without increasing the funding obligation of Northern Virginia localities.

- The city supports state-wide programs and funding to address the need for affordable housing in our community and to preserve currently affordable housing stock, including an increase in funding for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund, one of the Commonwealth’s most important tools to assist local and regional efforts in crafting housing affordability solutions.

There could also be significant debate about, and possible changes to, the formulas that Virginia uses to provide state aid to the public schools during the 2024 General Assembly session. Alexandria City Public Schools receives most of its funding from the city, but state support is important.

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission is statutorily authorized to conduct program evaluation, policy analysis and oversight of state agencies on behalf of the General Assembly. In July 2023, JLARC issued a study that was highly critical of the way Virginia funds its public schools.

“Most other states use simpler student-based K-12 funding formulas, in contrast to Virginia’s complex staffing-based formula,” the JLARC study reads in part.

Wilson expressed optimism there will be progress on the funding issue this year.

“My hope is that we’ll see real action this session on school funding, following on this year’s JLARC study,” Wilson said in an emailed response. “Given some of the findings, I believe it compels urgent action, and I am hopeful that the General Assembly is willing to roll-up their sleeves and move things forward. The current formula does not fund the need in public education, mismatches resources and need and is entirely inscrutable.”

High-profile bills

Lawmakers representing Alexandria have introduced bills, some of which may be veto targets for Youngkin, in the General Assembly’s pre-filing period.

Delegate Charniele Herring (D) introduced House Joint Resolution 1 which, together with Senate Joint Resolution 1, would begin the process of amending the Virginia Constitution to provide that “every individual has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom.”

House Joint Resolution 2, from Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker (D), together with Senate Joint Resolution 2, would begin the process of amending the Constitution to restore voting rights to felons who have served their sentences. Virginia is the only state that bars felons from voting for their entire lives, with restoration available only through a petition to the governor.

Other bills introduced in the pre-filing period would extend the property tax exemption currently available to spouses of soldiers killed in action to spouses of soldiers who died in the line of duty, gradually raise the state minimum wage from $7.25 an hour to $12 an hour and ban assault weapons.

McPike said Alexandria’s leaders seek authority from Richmond to address our own specific challenges. “… housing affordability, flooding, and improved funding for our schools … will be priorities this year,” McPike said in a statement. “There will be bills to give localities better tools to address quality of life issues like speeding, noise, and landlords who fail to properly maintain their properties, and I expect Council will endorse those efforts again this year.”

McPike also emphasized the need for a region-wide response to funding challenges faced by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

“So much of what we do in Alexandria relies on our transit system, and we need to ensure that representatives from across the Commonwealth understand how central WMATA is to Virginia’s economic prospects,” McPike said in the statement.

ELECTION NOTICE - CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

Dual Party Presidential Primary Election: Tuesday, March 5, 2024

VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The Voter Registration Deadline for this election is February 12, 2024

Eligible citizens who will be 18 or over by November 5, 2024 may apply to register to vote (or update an address) online, by mail, or in person.

Online: https://vote.elections.virginia.gov; prior to 11:59 pm on Feb. 12, 2024

By Mail: download an application at Alexandriava.gov/Elections or call 703.746.4050. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 12, 2024

In Person: at the following sites, prior to 5pm on Feb. 12, 2024

Division of Motor Vehicles
2681 Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22314
Please contact the DMV for hours.

City of Alexandria Office Voter Registration and Elections
132 North Royal St, Suite 100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Office: 703.746.4050 Fax: 703.838.6449
Website: alexandriava.gov/elections
Email: voters@alexandriava.gov

Same-Day Registration is available to individuals who missed the standard registration period, go to Alexandriava.gov/Elections for more information.

For voting information, including sample ballots and list of acceptable ID go to: Alexandriava.gov/Elections

Special Services: Requests for reasonable accommodation due to a disability should be made with at least a 48-hr notice. TTY number for hearing impaired persons: 703.888.5056

EARLY VOTING INFORMATION

All registered voters are eligible to request a by-mail ballot or vote early.

To vote in-person, early:
Office of Voter Registration
- Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm
- Closed: Monday, February 19, 2024
- Evening and weekend hours available; see website below.

For complete absentee hours, check Alexandriava.gov/Elections.

Deadline for in-person, early voting: Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 5pm

To vote by mail:
- Apply online: https://vote.elections.virginia.gov
- Download an absentee application at Alexandriava.gov/Elections or call 703.746.4050 to request an application.
- Return the application by mail, fax, or email.

Deadlines for voting by mail:
- Absentee ballot applications must be received by 5pm on Feb. 23, 2024
- Mailed Ballots must be received by 7pm on Mar. 5, 2024 or postmarked by election day and received by Noon on Friday, Mar. 8, 2024
- A secure outdoor drop box is available outside the Office of Voter Registration. This box will be under video surveillance and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Ballots must be deposited by 7pm on Mar. 5, 2024.
Fusion Academy Alexandria recently opened its doors to alumni for its second annual “Life After Fusion” panel. Graduates from the past three years returned and spoke to an audience of upperclassmen, sharing their expertise with a younger generation. Moderated by the Head of School, Catherine Keightley, the panel consisted of five alumni who have pursued a variety of paths post-Fusion, ranging from attending Northern Virginia Community College, a traditional four-year college or various gap-year programs.

On Dec. 4, 2023, students, staff and invited guests gathered at Alexandria Country Day School along Woodland Terrace to break ground on the South Campus playground. The playground’s design features an elevated play area with raised walkways, platforms, a rope bridge, climbing structures and a long slide running down the length of the hillside. The space also will include an amphitheater for play, performance and gathering.

Students are immersed in critical thinking and passionate learning every day at John Adams Elementary School, a learning environment where curiosity and creativity thrive. The school’s dedicated staff and diverse family and community partners work together to create a community of high-achieving learners who reach academic and personal excellence by engaging in an arts-integrated learning environment that develops 21st-century skills.

Located in the West End, Alexandria’s largest and fastest growing neighborhood, John Adams, is committed to innovative programming and holistic approaches that support whole-child development. John Adams is one of Alexandria’s two public elementary schools offering an English/Spanish Dual Language Program. It is also one of a select group of schools in the metropolitan area implementing the John F. Kennedy Center’s Changing Education Through the Arts program.

In addition to its dynamic curriculum, John Adams nurtures strong partnerships to help ensure students are globally-minded and well-prepared for the challenges of tomorrow. Community partners include Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Sympatico music education program, Communities in Schools and The Spitfire Club.

This is advertorial content.
BSS prepares for spring musical

Students at Blessed Sacrament have begun preparations for the spring musical, "Frozen Jr." Students auditioned for specific roles, but there is room for everyone in the ensemble. As music teacher Janet Maalouf said, “Anyone can sing, it’s all about fine-tuning your instrument.”

This musical version of “Frozen, Jr.” tells the story of an emotional journey between two sisters, Elsa and Anna, who grow from petty squabbles in the face of danger, to discover their hidden potential and the special bond of sisterhood. It’s a story emphasizing the importance of family and the strength of community.

Immanuel Lutheran starts new art club

Student artists at Immanuel Lutheran School have enjoyed the opportunity this year to expand on their classroom art experience and explore new techniques and projects in a new after school art club led by ILS Art Teacher, Anastasiya Camp. Students have been introduced to essential works of art and architecture from the ancient to modern world and use language of art to discuss their important contributions. Students also attempt their own “imitation pieces,” designed to give them hands-on experience of concepts they are learning.

Horse lessons at BFCDS

Students have been learning more about horses and how they live at the Burgundy Farm Country Day School stables.

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The players, parents and Board members of Alexandria Little League wish to express our sincere appreciation to

Sherry Reilly

Photo Credit: Renée C. Gage

for her many years of service to players, parents, and the city of Alexandria during the past four years as President of Alexandria Little League.

Thank you, Sherry, for hitting a home run everyday for us!
item was pulled and deferred by the applicant’s lawyer, M. Cathar-ine Puskar, because of Councillor John Taylor Chapman’s expressed disapproval, a resident protest petition and one Councillor’s absence.”

The protest petition, with nearly 900 signatures, required by zoning ordinance Section 11-808 that Council cannot approve a proposed amendment “except by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of its members.” With Chapman’s vote against, the supermajority requirement would not have been met, and the application would have been denied.

The applicant, land use attorney M. Catharine Puskar, who represents the potential developer, proposed a multi-family development on the lot with 48 for-sale units, two of which are set aside as affordable. The building would include an underground parking garage with 67 spaces, 10,000 square feet of private open space and have a main garage entrance on Queen Street.

The main requests for the project are: A master plan amendment to allow for multi-family development, rezoning from a commercial downtown zone to a commercial residential mixed use high zone, a development special use permit to allow for the multi-family building and an increase in the floor area ratio to 2.5.

“For the property to the north, we have no clue what they’re going to do,” Chapman said in a December 2023 interview with the Times. “I think I want to look at this as if I am planning that entire block and what would I want to see? I would want to see some ground-floor, open-space buildings not built right next to each other.”

Council will now be presented the redevelopment plan, which is docket item 11, on Saturday and hold a vote. With all members present – either via Zoom or in the chambers – the initiative needs six of seven votes to pass.

After several meetings, Council is set to vote Saturday on whether to rename or redescribe streets named for Confederate generals and soldiers. Streets currently under consideration were named following passage of an ordinance in 1953 that ruled all new streets running in North-South directions had to be named in honor of Confederates.

During a Nov. 30, 2023, Council Naming subcommittee meeting, Councilors Sarah Bagley, Chapman and Al-via Gaskins put forth multiple recommendations to the full Council, some for renaming and some for redescribing existing streets.

The entire Council discussed these recommendations at the January 9 legislative meeting, where subcommittee members explained their rationale for changing course to recommend redescribing some streets.

Mayor Justin Wilson expressed mixed feelings about redescribing.

“If we, especially in the first round, entertain a redescription approach, then I think we very much are setting a precedent and expectation for the future rounds,” Wilson said. “Obviously, the majority is the majority, but my initial reaction is that redescription seems like a kind of plundering of some of the effort here.”

These are to be voted on Saturday:

• Rename North Breckinridge Place in honor of Harriet Jacobs, an abolitionist who established the first free school for African American children in the city;
• Rename Forrest Street to Forest Street;
• Redescribe North and South Jordan Streets and Jordan Court in honor of Thomasina Jordan, an Indigenous activist who served in the Electoral College in 1988, among other political accomplishments and;
• Rename North and South Early Streets in honor of Charity Earley, the highest-ranking Black woman officer during World War II.

A third contentious issue before Council is whether to allow a special use permit at 404A East Alexandria Ave., which is docket item 10. The item involves a request for a special use permit to construct a single-unit dwelling on a vacant substandard lot. The Planning Commission approved this on January 4 in another 4-3 vote.

There was a staff presentation at the meeting and several speakers were present during the public hearing period for this docket item. In a question raised about parking from Commissioner Melinda Lyles, a city staffer said while parking has not been discussed with the applicant, it is a creative solution to providing housing. This statement had many speakers in the chamber their hands in frustration and audibly boo the speaker, which Commission Chair Nathan Macek quieted.

“This is not the poster child for Housing for All,” Brett Rice, a resident who lives adjacent to the property, said. “This is the poster child for doing the wrong thing. I’m generally supportive of Zoning for Housing... but I think we need to do this well.”

Commissioners David Brown and Lyles asked the applicant to have more discussions with neighbors to ensure this project fits “into the fabric of the neighborhood” and defer the project for a few months.

“Right now, what I see is a project that really isn’t compatible with the neighborhood as it stands right now,” Lyles said. “I don’t necessarily believe that the lot is not build-able, but I think that under this scenario, it really doesn’t meet the criteria for a [special use permit] approval.”

“If not for a development proposal like this, what are we going to do here?” Macek said. “We are the Planning Commission for the city of Alexandria with lots along alleys. We’re not the Planning Commission for Del Ray. We have to look at this on a citywide basis. This is cut and dry.”

Saturday’s public hearing will be streamed live on the city’s website and broadcast on government channel 70. Those interested in signing up to speak can visit survey.alex-anderia.gov/s3/City-Council-Speaker-Form.
A woman in a man’s world

How Alison Tichenor succeeded as a woman in the military
BY LEXIE JORDAN

The “she cave” in Green-spring Senior Living Community tells you all you need to know about recently retired army officer Alison Tichenor, who is 71.

Coated in scarlet and gray, the homage to Ohio State University is apparent: The sign hanging above the seating area saying “WOMAN CAVE” with the “O” being the Ohio State logo makes it quite obvious.

There is a plethora of Army accolades and memorabilia that decorate the room with an American flag waving on the back porch. It is also home to Tichenor’s beloved stuffed goose, Gabby.

The extroverted Tichenor maintains an open-door policy in the community. Her blue nails and bright colored shirt add to her charm, and her quick wit is something that cannot be missed when in conversation with her.

As the oldest of four sisters, leadership came naturally to Tichenor. Her father was determined that she and her sisters were going to be women in a man’s world, which is apparent considering the careers of herself and her sisters: a soldier, a minister, a teacher and an economist.

Growing up, Tichenor and her family moved frequently due to her father’s job. She was born in New Haven, Connecticut, but spent most of her adolescence in Wilmette, Illinois, which is where she met her husband of 52 years, Charley.

“I met him on the first day of high school of my freshman year on Sep. 4, 1964,” Tichenor recalled. “That Friday was the street dance and he danced with my best friend first, and then me. Once I danced with him, I never let go.”

The pair got married seven years later while attending Ohio State University. Tichenor was studying math and computer science and Charley was in the university’s Reserve Officers’ Training Corp studying business; however, she was unable to graduate, having left after her sophomore year to follow Charley for his job.

The newlyweds traveled to nine different cities in nine years. Charley was working in the fast food industry and Tichenor was working in various banks while studying at multiple schools to receive her bachelor’s degree.

At a bank in Norfolk, Virginia, Tichenor was helping a fellow male employee review his finances and noticed...
discrepancies in their salaries. Upon noticing this, she filed a formal charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission due to equal pay discrimination. After a two-year legal battle, she won the case.

“I don’t take ‘No’ lying down. I stand up for what I believe in, and I think that’s because of the way I was raised with four very talented, educated women,” Tichenor said.

In 1980, Charley was called to active duty. While saying their goodbyes, Tichenor realized immediately the Army wife culture was not suited for her.

“I went to his first hail and farewell and the women went to one side and discussed soap operas and neighbors and kids, and I didn’t fit in,” Tichenor said.

In 1981, Tichenor finished her bachelor’s degree in business at Strome College of Business at Old Dominion University, then enlisted in the Army.

“If you can’t fight ‘em, join ‘em,” she said with a laugh.

Since Tichenor was 29 at the time, she needed an age waiver, as 29 was seen as too old. In order to do so, she went through the Officer Candidate School. She graduated in 1982, and then started her nearly 22 years of active duty at Fort Meade, Maryland, in the Finance Corps.

While at Fort Meade and pregnant with her only child, Charles IV, Tichenor got her master's degree in public administration at Central Michigan University in only seven months. Typically, the program takes about two years.

She was a lieutenant until 1986 when she was then promoted to captain, where she spent eight years working in finance. She spent a solid portion of her career both in active duty and in the reserves as an Operations Research System Analyst testing weapons.

During her time in active duty, she – and the unit under her command – were stationed in Asia, Europe and across the United States. She had plenty of entertaining stories about her work, but Charley said they never discussed work at home. Since they were both highly ranked, there was no need.

At the start of her time in the reserves, Tichenor was only one of two women on the team of 42 people. Tichenor spoke little about what it was like to work on a male-dominated team. When she enlisted in the 1980s, the women constituted less than 10% of the Army and many of them were nurses.

Tichenor never let this stop her.

This determination stayed with Tichenor throughout her
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time in the Army. She recalled how she had little fear squaring up to the men that would test her.

“Look, if you don’t listen to me, I know where to put this pointy toe shoe. It will hurt,” Tichenor said with a wink.

In 1994, Tichenor went into the reserve component and for the next 16 years she worked with the Army Test and Evaluation Command and spent the first eight of those years with a part time job as a management analyst in the Finance Corps. During those years, she earned her Ph.D. in information technology at George Mason University and survived breast cancer twice in 2001 and 2003.

Starting in 2011, she worked as a Senior Operations Research/Systems Analyst until October 2022 when she retired from more than 40 years of service.

“Who knew that I’d be associated with the U.S. Army for 41 years, eight months and three days,” Tichenor said reminiscently.

Nowadays, Tichenor spends much of her time at the Greenspring Senior Living Community in Springfield, Virginia, where she has the “she cave,” also known as her office. Tichenor also has an apartment half a mile away in another facility where she’s lived with Charley since 2015.

As a recent retiree, Tichenor did not want all of her energy to go to waste, so now she co-manages a local thrift store, Treasure Chest.

“I did not put in my retirement papers until I was confirmed to work at Treasure Chest. I wanted some place to put this energy,” she said.

The majority of Treasure Chest’s revenue is dispersed among various causes, Tichenor’s favorite being the college fund for high school students that work at Greenspring. After a philanthropy event hosted at Treasure Chest on June 9, 2023, the scholarship fund totaled more than $10,000.

Besides Treasure Chest, Tichenor spends her time with Gabby, a stuffed goose that sits outside the “she cave.” Every so often – whenever Tichenor has time – she puts a themed outfit on Gabby.

“The community adores Gabby and her newly introduced goslings handcrafted by Tichenor. She said Gabby has been a huge help to her in starting new relationships at Greenspring; since her door is often open, people will stop by to say how much they love Gabby.

“Gabby is a source of endless entertainment,” one passerby said during his greeting.

Tichenor has an area of the closet in the “she cave” dedicated to Gabby’s outfits. She makes the outfits herself, buys them from Etsy or gets help from neighbors. For example, one neighbor made a patch and another gave each of the goslings little hats for Cinco de Mayo.

“[Gabby] has been a great way to meet people. Oftentimes people will stop me and be like, ‘Oh you live where Gabby lives,’ and the conversation goes from there,” Tichenor said.

Tichenor has been regarded among friends and loved ones as someone who lives life to the fullest, and has certainly kept herself busy. Knowing Tichenor, there’s a lot more to come.

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COURTESY PHOTO
Alison Tichenor’s stuffed goose, Gabby, in her Cinco de Mayo outfit.
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Why everyone should plan for long-term care

BY ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING EDITED BY PAMELA AUSTIN

Research suggests that by age 65, some Americans will need assistance with everyday activities and the need for support will increase as they grow older. The amount of care needed will depend on many variables, including overall health, cognitive functioning and home environment.

Age is a strong predictor of the need for help, and because women live longer on average, they are more likely than men to require long-term care. Regardless of gender, factors such as a disability, injury, or chronic illness also increase the chance that long-term care will be needed. For some people, the need for long-term care may occur suddenly as the result of illness or accident. For others, the need may grow slowly.

Make your decisions about long-term care before you have the need. These three simple steps can help start your planning.

1. Know what to expect.

Most people know they should save for retirement, but many don’t know exactly what expenses to expect for help with everyday tasks such as bathing, dressing or eating. While most of this care is provided by family members and friends, sometimes older adults and their families get these services from providers like home health agencies or area agencies on aging, including the city’s division of aging and adult services. Long-term care insurance can help to cover the cost of professional services provided in the home.

Understanding long-term care is the first step in creating a plan. Here are key things to know:

- Most people prefer to receive long-term care at home; their odds of doing so may be improved by making home modifications to reduce the risk of falls.
- A person who lives alone is more likely to require long-term care than one who can rely on a spouse or partner for help with daily tasks.
- Long-term care is expensive and represents a major risk to your retirement savings.
- Medicare does not pay for long-term care services – with some minor exceptions – and neither does your employer-based health insurance or Medigap.
- Many Americans say they do not want to rely on their children for care, but a lack of planning for paid care often leads to exactly that result.

2. Make your preferences known.

A choice to plan or not plan will likely have a big impact on family and friends who may also be informal caregivers. Statistics show that most long-term care is provided by family members or other loved ones. Research has also shown that caregivers can experience significant stress when they have caregiving responsibilities.

Take the time to make clear your preferences for what kind of help you value most and where you want to receive it. Family and friends will feel better knowing that you are thinking about your needs – and theirs – by planning for long-term care.

3. Get a plan in place.

Be proactive. Staying at home is great, especially if it has been modified to help you avoid an injury and continue to care for yourself. However, it won’t happen without taking steps to ensure you can get the support you need. Start thinking about ways to maintain your independence and safety as long as possible within your home and community.

For more information and resources to develop a care plan, visit longtermcare.gov and alexandriava.gov/aging.

The editor is resource coordinator for Alexandria’s division of aging and adult services.
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How to choose the right community for a loved one

BY DOUG BUTTNER

Spending time with older loved ones can be a highlight of the holiday season; however, it can also be a time when many notice concerning changes in their loved one’s well-being like physical decline, social isolation or neglected living conditions.

Many family members soon find themselves faced with having to look for a safer living environment for their parents or grandparents. For those who have never gone through this process before, it can be a daunting, emotional task that leaves them wondering where to start. A simple Google search like “senior care in Virginia” produces 904 million results: How does anyone really know which assisted living community will provide what they need?

For more than two decades, I’ve helped families find the right community. Here are the key questions and elements that individuals need to ask and be on the lookout for.

Spotting excellence
The old expression, “the cream always rises to the top” couldn’t be more true here. Most senior living providers are owned by larger companies, so it’s important to evaluate the operations of both the parent company and its local community so you can identify the best.

These are some questions to consider: How long has the parent company been in business? How does the community hire and train its staff? Happy, stable staffing generally translates to better care and a superior experience, so how satisfied are the community’s staff and what is their turnover? Do they have on-site leadership present seven days a week if an issue arises?

Levels, length of care
Although your loved one may not need a high level of care now, it’s possible they will need it in the future and an eventual move to another facility could be detrimental to their well-being. Look for a community that offers multiple care levels and can provide high levels of care if needed.

According to Alzheimer’s Disease International, the number of people with dementia is almost doubling every 20 years, so look for a community who can offer and manage the physical and behavioral challenges of Alzheimer’s if the need arises.

It’s also common for older adults to need help managing medication, getting dressed or bathing as they get older. Consider these questions: Can the community provide those services? Will they allow private skilled nursing care to be provided in the privacy of the resident’s apartment?

Resident engagement
Mental stimulation and having connections with others is equally as important as safety and care. Quality senior living communities offer a wide range of programs throughout each day that are tailored to residents’ interests. Look at their activities calendar to see if they offer programs each day that would be of interest to your loved one. More importantly, see how they go about designing and offering their resident programs.

More than a meal
Food is important because it should provide not only well-balanced meals that are both nutritious and delicious, but it should be a time when people come together to socialize. Look for communities that offer both quality food your loved one will enjoy and those that make dining more than just another meal.

Here are some questions to consider: Are there multiple dining venues and a wide range of choices to prevent boredom? Is the food homemade or pre-made and are any ingredients grown on-site? How often are specials available? What programs are offered that get residents really excited about food and eating?

Services to consider
Although assisted living communities can provide a wide range of services, not all will provide things like transportation to appointments or on-site healthcare and wellness services. With many of us managing multiple hats and responsibilities, it’s not always possible to take a loved one to appointments whether it be weekly hair appointments or doctor’s visits. Look for a community that offers transportation options and the convenience of services on-site like a hair salon, nurse visits to address concerns or regular on-site rehabilitation to aid in recovery.

These are just some of the things that should go into evaluating and choosing an assisted living community for a loved one. Once you’ve done your initial research, visit each community to attend an activity, have a meal, see how well it’s maintained and get a sense of the overall culture.

The writer is senior executive director at Benchmark at Alexandria, an assisted living and mind and memory care community.
U.S. leads the world in ‘solo aging’

Seniors without reliable support systems often turn to senior living facilities
BY LINDSAY HUTTER

The United States has the greatest number of seniors – those aged 60 and older – living alone, or “solo aging,” than in any other area of the world, according to a Pew Research Center study: 27% of adults over the age of 60, compared to an average of 16% in the 130 countries studied.

The study found many older adults in the Asia-Pacific and Sub-Saharan Africa regions live with extended family members – 50% and 51%, respectively – followed closely by the Latin American and Middle East-North Africa regions, 41% and 39% respectively. In the U.S., only 6% of older adults live with extended family.

As defined by the American Society on Aging, solo agers lack the support system historically provided by a spouse or adult children. This support would be applied to “personal finance, access to healthcare and long-term care and personal autonomy as they age,” according to the ASA. In case of solo agers, they often need to look elsewhere for someone to act on their behalf when they are not able to do so for themselves.

Many older adults, whether they are coupled or solo agers, will often say, “I will get those services when I need them” or “We will move into a retirement community when we need assistance.”

It’s just as possible that a health incident will mean that someone else will be making those decisions for an older adult who has not planned for a sudden or even gradual loss of independence.

That was the situation for Myla Archer. A serious infection landed her in the hospital and it was a geriatric case manager with Caring Considerations who helped her transition out of the hospital into The View Alexandria, where she is now a resident.

Like Archer, John Phillips found himself in a senior living community by medical necessity. A traumatic brain injury landed him in a wheelchair and while he recovered enough to be mobile and was just 68 years old, he did not trust himself to remain in a condo. Phillips has never looked back.

“Living at The View Alexandria these last five years has not only given me health care support, it has given me friends and purpose,” Phillips said. “I care for many of the plants inside and outside, which gives me an opportunity to interact with others in that care and seeing other residents and staff enjoy the plants. Were I living alone, I might enjoy the plants I cared for, but I would never experience seeing others enjoy them.”

For Judith Knee, the decision to move into a retirement community was prompted by the road ahead as a solo ager. While active in the National Organization for Women and live theater organizations, she had no family left.

“That day came for Knee. ‘I am not ready yet,’ Gurney said. ‘Viewing ourselves as solo agers now or in the future is a great way to empower yourself for the future and plan for the time when support will be needed.’

Planning ahead is something that Gurney finds to be challenging for many.

“The phrase I hear every day of the week is, ‘I am not ready yet,’ Gurney said. ‘Viewing ourselves as solo agers now or in the future is a great way to empower yourself for the future and plan for the time when support will be needed.’

There are many options to aging together and in community for older adults, whether that is continuing care at home organizations, retirement communities or other types of senior housing. With the many supports and options available, older adults do not have to age alone.

The writer is the chief strategy and marketing officer for Goodwin Living.
Alexandria Celebrates Women

Women’s roles on Election Day

BY GAYLE CONVERSE

You might think it’s a far stretch between serving as a high-ranking United States military officer in the Middle East to serving as an election officer in Virginia, but not for one Alexandria woman.

When Donna McDaniel retired as a major following more than 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, she knew she wanted to spend some of her time giving back in a different manner, a type of service she would come by quite naturally. During her time in the Air Force, McDaniel performed duties in command and control centers as well as planned and oversaw execution of combat air operations in Serbia, Afghanistan and Iraq.

The product of a military family which had, whenever possible, served as poll workers, McDaniel also wanted to use her leadership skills on a local level to inspire younger generations of women.

“Coupling family and military service backgrounds [reinforced] with me the importance of women having control and women who are involved in their own destiny,” McDaniel said.

Since 2019, she has served in a variety of precincts as one of the city’s election officers, or more commonly referred to as poll workers. McDaniel said she believes serving as an election officer creates opportunities for citizens to become familiar with the process and have faith in the process. She realizes women and civic engagement go hand-in-hand.

“Voting and writing to our representatives are ways we become engaged and stay engaged as citizens. If we tune out, we risk losing everything women gained during the last 150 years,” McDaniel said. “We must continue to break down barriers in our society and expand opportunities for our future. I want to help enable young women, including my four nieces and two great nieces, to have more doors open to them than women in my generation did: To be able to have a voice and a say in their futures, to live out their dreams and contribute their talents, passions and goals no matter what career path they choose.”

The U.S. remains in need of poll workers. According to the Brennan Center for Justice, almost 130,000 American poll workers stopped serving by April 2022. The Center’s survey also revealed “between 10 to 20% percent of local election officials said they were very unlikely or somewhat unlikely to stay on until the 2024 election.”

The Virginia Department of Elections said local officers “help the process run smoothly during early voting and on Election Day.”

In Alexandria, citizens may qualify to serve as an election officer in one of its 52 precincts if one is a registered voter in Virginia, is civic-minded with basic computer skills, is available to work the entire day on Election Day and has completed training prior to Election Day.

The Alexandria Office of Voter Registration and Elections is currently recruiting officers for the three remaining elections that will take place in the city this year: the March 5 U.S. presidential primary, the June 18 primary election for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, mayor and City Council races and the November 5 general election for president and vice president, Senate, House of Representatives, mayor, City Council and School Board.

It’s going to be a busy season for candidates, voters and election officers. It is not a far stretch to appreciate Alexandria’s women who will be helping to ensure a smooth and fair process for all.

Women often play an important role in Election Day, whether they are voting or serve as an election officer.
Installing bathroom tile like a pro

BY FAMILY FEATURES

Updating the flooring can help infuse new life into tired, outdated bathrooms. For an upscale, polished look that doesn’t have to break the bank, consider installing tile flooring. Before you get started, you’ll want to make some decisions about the look and feel of your flooring.

Ceramic or stone?
Weigh factors such as porosity, how slippery the surface may be when wet and how well it retains heat or cold. Ultimately, your decision hinges on the needs and uses of your family.

Complement or contrast?
Define the overall style you want as well as the colors and tones that will help best achieve your vision.

Big or small?
Generally, the larger the tile, the fewer grout lines, and too many grout lines in a smaller space can create the illusion of clutter. However, smaller tiles can eliminate the need to make multiple awkward cuts, and small tiles are perfect for creating accent patterns or introducing a splash of color.

When you’ve got your overall look and materials selected, keep these steps in mind as you begin laying the flooring.

1. Prepare your subfloor. Use a level to check for uneven spots; you need an even surface to prevent cracks in the tile or grout as well as rough spots that could pose tripping hazards. Use patching and leveling material to create a consistent surface. Apply a thin layer of mortar then attach your cement backer board with screws. Cover joints with cement board tape, apply another thin layer of mortar, smooth and allow to dry.

2. To ensure square placement, draw reference lines on the subfloor using a level and carpenter square. Tile should start in the middle of the room and move out toward the walls, so make your initial reference lines as close to the center as possible. Mark additional reference lines as space allows, such as 2-foot-by-2-foot squares.

3. Do a test run with your chosen tile by laying it out on the floor. There are color variations in most tile patterns, so you’ll want to verify each tile blends well with the next.

4. Mix tile mortar and use the thin side of a trowel to apply mortar at a 45-degree angle. Use the combed side to spread evenly and return excess mortar to the bucket. Remember to apply mortar in small areas, working as you go, so it doesn’t dry before you’re ready to lay the tile.

5. When laying tile, use your reference lines as guides. Press and wiggle tile slightly for the best adherence.

6. Use spacers to create even lines between one tile and the next, removing excess mortar with a damp sponge or rag.

7. As you complete a section of tile, use a level and mallet to verify the tiles are sitting evenly.

8. Let mortar dry 24 hours before grouting.

9. Remove spacers then apply grout to joints, removing excess as you go.

10. Allow grout to dry per the manufacturer’s instructions then go back over tile with a damp sponge to set grout lines and clean grout residue.

11. Once the grout has cured – usually at least a couple weeks – apply sealer to protect it.

There are many factors when considering new tile to lay in your bathroom.
ICE SKATING AT CAMERON RUN
On weekends and holidays until February 25, join Cameron Park to skate in the winter weather. Enjoy outdoor time with s’mores and hot chocolate with fun for the family. Tickets are available online. Admission to the Winter Village is separate.

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Location: Cameron Run Regional Park, 4001 Eisenhower Ave.
Information: Cameron@NVRPA.org or 703-960-0767

JANUARY 19

ALX RESTAURANT WEEK
Restaurant Week is back! More than 70 restaurants until January 28 will offer $30, $40 or $50 in-person dinners for one. Special menus available at participating locations. Neighborhood restaurants participating in Old Town, Del Ray, the West End and Carlyle and Eisenhower.

Time: Dinner
Location: Across Alexandria
Information: visitalexandria.com/events/alexandria-restaurant-week

GOLDEN SONGS OF LOS ANGELES
From Newmyer Flyer, the legendary music scene of Laurel Canyon is the focus of a new show at the Birchmere. This show will feature a lineup of the area’s accomplished artists with music from The Beach Boys, Joni Mitchell, The Eagles, Carole King and more. $35 per ticket on Ticketmaster.

Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave.
Information: birchmere.com

JANUARY 20

HBCU COLLEGE FAIR
High school students interested in attending an HBCU are welcome to attend the college fair held by Project Discovery. Participants can talk to college admissions counselors and ask questions. Bring a high school transcript and any test scores for on-the-spot admission.

Time: 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Location: Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St.
Information: Email jacquay, plummer@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-5552

KID CRAFT MORNINGS
Children aged two to 12 can drop in for a free craft with Made in ALX. The next two Saturdays there will be a different craft with no glitter. Free garage parking.

Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Location: Made in ALX, 533 Montgomery St.
Information: madeinalx.com

JANUARY 21

ALZHEIMER’S CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP
Build a local support system of others who understand the challenges of caring for a loved one with Alzheimer’s. Conducted by trained facilitators to share feelings, needs, concerns and discuss ways of coping.

Time: 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Location: Charles E. Beatley, Jr., Central Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave.
Information: Contact Lori Woelfel at bankingonamemory@gmail.com or 240-715-2251

BRaille CRAFT
Celebrate National Braille Month by learning about the braille alphabet and creating your name in braille. For ages 6 to 12.

Time: 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Location: James M. Duncan, Jr. Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave.
Information: kpayne@alexlibraryva.org or 703-746-1705

HOME OF THE WEEK

Spacious, luxury home in G.W. Park

Indulge in the extraordinary! Bluestone Builders redefine luxury living in this 7-bed, 6.5-bath, custom home on a 9,000 square foot lot. Revel in the functional layout, open living spaces, mud room and gourmet kitchen with oversized island. The primary suite is a haven with a spa bathroom. Third level bonus room with bath. Finished lower level with 9’ ceilings, au pair suite and outside entrance offers endless entertaining possibilities. Elevator to 4 floors and a roof deck. Outdoor oasis features a bluestone patio, outdoor kitchen, gas fire table and fountain. Off street parking. Conveniently located near King St. Metro, Old Town and Del Ray. Your dream home awaits.

Contact: Christine Garner
christine@christinegarner.com
christinegarner.com

HOMES ADVERTORIAL
New student-run business to open

‘Spirit Box’ vending machine expands entrepreneurial options at ACHS
BY ARIANA WILSON

Alexandria City High School’s dual enrollment entrepreneurship program with Northern Virginia Community College is providing students with hands-on training with the launch of the new Titan School Store Spirit Box. The venture is a student-run vending machine, selling Titan apparel, including t-shirts, beanies, lanyards, water bottles and other accessories with the convenience of self-service.

The new vending machine is open 24 hours a day and is available to students, faculty, staff and community members coming to watch sports games or participating in after or before school activities. It accepts all forms of payment, including Apple Pay, debit and credit cards, cash and coins.

Students have the opportunity to gain practical experience in launching and running a business enterprise while working with teacher and DECA advisor Catherine Lewis. Lewis, who is in her third year in this role, said her prior experience as an entrepreneur who owned an event-planning company helped her learn the skills she needed to teach her students about starting and running a business.

"Students created a proposal after returning from a DECA [an organization that gives students a hands-on opportunity to learn marketing, management and entrepreneurship] International conference in Atlanta," Lewis said. "That inspired the idea to buy a vending machine for the school and [the students] proposed it to the administration two years ago."

It took the ensuing two years to secure funding for the project in the Alexandria City Public Schools’ operating budget. It was then approved by ACHS Executive Principal Alexander Duncan III.

“We needed $14,000 just to purchase the vending machine, not including the products or any other materials needed for the business,” Lewis said.

The Titan School Store was the first venture run entirely by students and remains a staple at ACHS for 13 years and running. In 2023, the brick-and-mortar store generated $32,000 in revenue, according to Lewis.

The vending machine was created to provide more opportunities for students to be a part of the entrepreneurial program; with ACHS’ total enrollment reaching 4,600 students and Lewis’ students totaling 125, it was essential to expand the business to accommodate for the increased interest.

There are 38 student employees – or sales associates – for the student store with three general managers: One that works with human resources and the other two who deal with regular department functions. There are an additional 64 DECA students involved in the student store operations.

“Running these businesses has given students invaluable retail and management skills that will serve us well in future careers,” Esiam Dedoo, DECA vice president at ACHS, said.

“The vending department has five employees and one general manager that work exclusively with the department,” Lewis said. “There are about 20 entrepreneurial students that are not employees of the school, but do website design and occasional checks and balances for the school store.”

Students involved in DECA and Lewis’ classes are especially encouraged to apply for various positions integral to running a business. These include sales, marketing, fulfillment, inventory, design, vending and social media marketing through Instagram, where they have amassed nearly 2,000 followers.

“This makes them understand the roles of business and ownership and how that ties into the roles of education,” Lewis said. “When you tie it in and make the kids have a voice and a choice in what they’re doing, you create this ‘buy-in’ and they have the opportunity to see what entrepreneurship and formal education looks like so they can choose if they want to do one or the other or both.”

Before joining the Titan School Store Spirit Box team, students must take a tour of the operations and learn the responsibilities of each department.

“I needed them to see how the operations work as well as a vending business owner that gave them an up-close experience as to what a vending business is and to get exposure first hand,” Lewis said.

The unveiling of the Titan Store has required some shifting in Lewis’ business model and they have implemented a new department that focuses specifically on vending.

“It’s a totally different type of business, so the students had to be trained on how to stock and display items in a vending machine and how to run maintenance on a vending machine, which is totally different then what we do at the brick-and-mortar store,” Lewis said.

Students will be introduced to marketing strategies via social media and will be able to organize inventory that directly pertains to the vending machine business separate from the physical store.

“Packaging was difficult because it needed to be accessible but still attractive to customers, so we had to visit other schools to see how they ran their operations,” Lewis recalled.

Lewis’ students also must create a prototype business plan to launch their own for-profit business to work on throughout the year. She wants her students and young people to understand and build a relationship with money because it is a lifelong skill.

“You have to have a plan,” Lewis said. "Ask yourself, 'How can I be profitable in any arena I'm in?'"

The Spirit Box will officially launch Friday.
Editorial

A needed market correction

Alexandria’s e-scooter program is teetering and appears ready to topple. Good.

We’ve expressed skepticism about this program for five years now for numerous reasons – the foremost being that e-scooters are simply unsafe. They’re also unsightly, a nuisance and, as today’s page 1 story “Dockless disarray” indicates, unprofitable.

Thankfully, it appears that the market is going to correct what’s been a significant policy mistake in Alexandria, as the current stock price of Bird, the city’s largest scooter provider, is around 5 cents.

It’s been the height of hypocrisy from the start that this program has been foisted on resistant residents – particularly in Old Town – in the name of safety. What, exactly, is safe for either pedestrians or scooter riders about unhelmeted, often underage, riders blowing through intersections without stopping?

Nowhere on the city of Alexandria’s Dockless Mobility webpage does it tell prospective scooter riders what the requirements even are for riding a scooter in Alexandria. What’s the age limit? Is a driver’s license required? Can people ride tandem? Are helmets required, or even recommended?

Remarkably, not only is there not a set of rules regarding the use of scooters in Alexandria listed, the above questions are not even included in the frequently asked questions on the page.

Cities are increasingly reconsidering their e-scooter programs, most famously in Paris, where residents voted overwhelmingly last year to ban the devices.

Alexandria’s government cites the Vision Zero initiative whenever it wants to make changes to our roads that make it more difficult to drive automobiles. Alexandria’s stated goal through Vision Zero is to eliminate all deaths and severe injuries related to traffic by 2028.

Do our city leaders honestly expect to further this goal by allowing unhelmeted e-scooter riders going 15 miles per hour to share city streets with 4,000 pound vehicles? Worse, Alexandria police rarely stop scooter riders for violations.

A Bird executive said her company pulled its operations out of San Diego last year in part due to that city’s “onerous regulations.” A perusal of San Diego’s iRide website shows nothing remotely “onerous” in its requirements. In fact, most of San Diego’s requirements sound the same or more lenient than those in Alexandria: Riders must be 18 or older – though riders as young as 15 can ride if accompanied by an adult – e-scooters in San Diego can go a maximum of 20 miles per hour and a driver’s license is not required, but a photo ID is.

The big difference? San Diego requires e-scooter riders to wear helmets. According to iRide San Diego, “All riders will be provided with a helmet and must be worn when rental period begins.”[sic] Oh, and San Diego also fines companies for policy violations.

Not only does Alexandria not require helmets, they are not even recommended. Alexandria’s fiscal year 2024 Dockless Mobility Annual Work Plan includes several photos of e-scooter riders, none of which are wearing helmets. The Dockless Mobility homepage includes no mention of helmets.

The experts are clear that e-scooter riders are at significant risk of head injuries.

“Most e-scooter injuries have typically been fractures, sprains, and head injuries. Head injuries have been a significant concern, particularly among riders not wearing helmets,” the Traumatic Brain Injury Information Hub, tbi.com, states.

We conclude with this excerpt from our June 20, 2019, editorial:

“The kindest phrase we can find to describe the city’s transportation philosophy – which purportedly prioritizes safety – is ‘wildly contradictory.’

If making our streets safer governs all of our street-related decisions – which is what city officials repeatedly use to justify decisions that make it harder to drive cars in Alexandria – then this scooter program is a non-starter.

So are we going to get rid of these dangerous toys that have invaded Alexandria, or are we going to finally admit that safety isn’t really our priority?”

Opinion

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

Photo of the Week

Letters

Demolishing Annie B. Rose would harm senior residents

To the editor:

I have proudly served as the social worker at the Annie B. Rose complex on Pendleton Street in Old Town for 26 years. Over that time, I have seen to every imaginable need of hundreds of Section 8 residents – through all manner of transitions. This included the full and recent renovation of our building, during which not a single resident was displaced. The reason for the latter is simple: Displacement is one of the most predictable metrics for precipitous decline in the elderly.

Our residents, as well as our equally vulnerable neighbors at the contiguous Ladrey Building – now proposed for demolition – would be put at considerable and unnecessary environmental, social, emotional and physiological risk by the proposed destruction of that building.

Winn Development has promised Ladrey residents everything short of eternal life to get them to vacate their homes, where some have lived for 20 or more years, on the promise of returning to a new, better, greener building. They have shockingly downplayed, in my opinion, the severe consequences of 3.5-year forced relocation of these vulnerable – and misled – tenants.

I will leave to others articulation of additional stated concerns, such as soil conditions that are dangerously ill-suited to such a massive project that’s so large it would increase the density of the current status by an astonishing 50%. It would create relentless construction dust, imperil emergency vehicle access, impede wheelchair ingress/egress and result in an inescapably sunless, claustrophobic final effect.

As someone who has had to relocate elderly individuals from their homes, I

Letters

The opinions expressed in letters and columns are those of the writers only and do not reflect the views, nor receive the endorsement, of the Alexandria Times.
Amplify Gaza voices, not an upset diner

To the editor:

It must have been a slow newsweek in Alexandria for this newspaper to devote a front-page story – “Former aide in midst of controversy, again” in the January 4 Alexandria Times – to a Washington, D.C. resident who expressed her opinion. So ironic, that a newspaper, at a time when newspapers are struggling, would bother to give news space to someone who criticized freedom of expression and an employer for allowing that expression. The story conflated a very minor, non-threatening complaint by one customer into an antisemitic, physically threatening complaint, which it was not. Weaponizing antisemitism in this way is actually discouraging free speech.

Wishing for a free Palestine – as promised in the United Nations Resolution 181 in 1947 that divided the Mandate for Palestine into two states, Palestine and Israel – and being that a two-state solution has been the policy of the United States, and acknowledgement that present-day Palestine, made up of the West Bank and Gaza are occupied territories that are controlled by the occupiers, what is antisemitic about wishing for a free Palestine?

It is now clear that the government of Israel has gone beyond occupation and intends on complete destruction of Gaza. In November, an Israeli finance minister called for the voluntary emigration of Gazans to other countries. Also, on November 15, the New York Times reported, “The Israeli agriculture minister, Avi Dichter, said that the military campaign in Gaza was explicitly designed to force the mass displacement of Palestinians. ‘We are now rolling out the Gaza nakba,’ he said in a television interview. ‘Gaza nakba 2023.’”

The Washington Post, The Guardian and other news outlets have reported on the destruction of mosques, churches and libraries as well as schools, U.N. refugee camps, hospitals and 60% of homes, which shows the intent to completely destroy Gaza and make it unlivable. This is in addition to the deaths of more than 23,000 civilians and the displacement of almost 2 million people, who are now on the brink of starvation and famine. The whole world should be concerned about the fate of Palestine.

The accuser claims to be for freedom of speech even though he tried unsuccessfully to get an employee fired for expressing her opinion. If there is freedom to express ourselves in this country, criticism of the actions of the Israeli government should not be considered antisemitic. People can object to the actions of a state government without being accused of attacking a religion.

There has been a surge of antisemitic and anti-Arab violence across the United States because of the conflict. This newspaper might want to reach out to both Jews and Palestinians in Alexandria affected by this conflict and amplify their voices instead of going after a former Alexandria resident who simply expressed her opinion, something we should all be able to do without threat.

-Boyd Walker, Alexandria

You can’t have it both ways

To the editor:

Former Congressman Joe Sestak uses the first person singular 18 times in his approximately 600 word letter, “War is worse than hell,” in the January 11 Alexandria Times. He “resolutely supports Israel’s rightful response” but does not “condone the slaying of innocent bystanders.”

Sestak offers no evidence that Israel deliberately “slays the innocent” in its existential war with Hamas, which very clearly does. Less “I/me/my” – 25 times – will strengthen an evidentiary based argument.

-Keith Anderson, Alexandria

The slaying of innocent bystanders.

Saying that the mass displacement of Palestinians is not easy. Actually, it’s almost impossible. On Dec. 14, 2023, we received a call at Christ Church from an Alexandria resident asking for help. This is not unusual, as we get roughly 20 to 40 calls per day from people asking for help with rent, utilities, food and eviction prevention. The call came in at 1:45 p.m. I asked the volunteer answering the phone to get her name and number and then I overheard him say, “So you’re being evicted tomorrow morning at 10 a.m.”

A Lazarus volunteer returned her call at about 5:15 p.m. She had a writ of eviction with the posted time for 10 a.m. the next morning, when the Sheriff would arrive, ask her to leave and put a lock on her door. The possibility of stopping this seemed unlikely. She owed just over $1,800, but she also had a housing voucher. She would lose that voucher if she were evicted. The volunteer agreed to meet her at the rental office at 9:45 a.m. with a check in hand.

I called her later to help her prepare for the actual eviction, knowing that the leasing office could still reject the check because there are often renters waiting, and that she should still pack up her most important things. I told her if the shelters were full, we would put her in a hotel until we could figure out something else. She was both relieved that someone had gotten back to her, but rightfully very frightened of becoming homeless. She felt certain they didn’t want her as a resident anymore, but we were going to give it a go.

When I got home that evening, I emailed Alexandria 311, which connects directly to the mayor and City Council, to ask if there was something they could do. The eviction was 14 hours away. Between 7:35 p.m. and the next morning I received communications from two City Council members, the mayor, the attorney from Legal Services of Northern Virginia – who was on vacation in Germany – the sheriff, the deputy sheriff, the director of community services and the director of the Department of Community and Human Services all expressing concern for this resident.

It turns out that staff from Alexandria Housing and Redevelopment Authority and an Eviction Prevention Service Navigator at DCHS had been working tirelessly behind the scenes to prevent this eviction as well. At 10:35 a.m., the deputy sheriff emailed, “I’ve been informed that the management has notified the sheriff that the payment has been made, so the execution of the writ of eviction has been canceled.”

The dedication of these staff and volunteers is remarkable. To change one life, to protect the vulnerable, to believe that we can do it together is miraculous.

-Melanie Gray, MSW
director, Outreach and Mission, Christ Church
The President’s Day storm of 1979

We’ve become numb to hyperbole about weather events in the mid-Atlantic region. Names like “bomb cyclone,” “Snowmageddon” and “Storm of the Century” roll off the tongue to the modern reader as regular events.

However, one of the worst snowstorms in Alexandria history had the modest title of the “President’s Day snowstorm of 1979.” Perhaps the fault lies with the storm itself, which defied forecasts that assumed that it would miss the area.

Four inches fell on the evening of Feb. 18, 1979, which was significant, but nothing to be alarmed about. The snow stopped around midnight, and forecasters predicted that only an inch or two would fall on February 19. Instead, up to 20 inches fell the next day, making it the biggest snowstorm in the area since the Knickerbocker Storm of 1922.

The storm had damaging effects beyond the time and effort needed to dig out from a storm on people’s holiday. For instance, a fire swept through six townhouses on South Fairfax Street. The snow and freezing temperatures hampered the efforts of the firefighters, as the snow not only slowed the trucks’ attempts to reach the blaze, but the cold froze the breathing apparatus the firefighters tried to use to navigate the smoky houses. The blaze was estimated to cost $300,000. One owner had only bought his townhouse four weeks earlier, and had not yet moved in. In an interview, he noted wryly that he had planned to renovate his 80-year-old building, but fire wasn’t his preferred method of doing so.

Elsewhere in the city, the storm stranded an ambulance carrying a cardiac patient. A second ambulance sent to rescue the first also became stranded, and hospital workers were forced to carry the patient by foot through the snow in the remaining block. The patient arrived at Alexandria Hospital in satisfactory condition.

The end of the snowfall didn’t mean that Alexandria’s worries were over either. Concerns about roof collapses due to the weight of the snow meant that employees at two federal government buildings at Cameron Station were sent home early two days after the storm.

In the rush to get out of the storm’s fury, many people abandoned their cars in the middle of the road, making efforts to clear the streets slow and aggravating. The city estimated that it towed more than 150 cars in the two days that followed the storm.

Partly due to the ferocity of the storm and its aftermath, meteorology is very different than it was in 1979. Weather tracking is much more sophisticated, and forecasters err on the side of predicting more, rather than less severity in their forecasts. Perhaps rather than scoff at the hyperbole used in storm-naming today, we can recognize the role of the plainly named President’s Day storm of 1979 in how we think of weather.

This “Attic” first appeared in the Feb. 1, 2018, Alexandria Times.

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

Weekly Poll

Did you ever take a class or know someone who took a class with Mr. Kokonis?

50% Yes, I know others who took classes with him.
22% I’m not familiar with Mr. Kokonis.
19% Yes, I took a class with him.
9% No, I never did nor know anyone who did.

Alexandria’s e-scooter program is now five years old. What do you think about it?

A) I love e-scooters.
B) They need to go.
C) I like them, but they’re unsafe.
D) What’s an e-scooter?
**Weekly Words**

**GO WEST, YOUNG MAN** by Justin Werfel, edited by Jeff Chen

**DEATH NOTICES**

- **AUDREY SPIELMAN FENTON** (101), of Alexandria, Jan. 12, 2024
- **ANTHONY MICHAEL FRATO** (85), of Alexandria, Jan. 8, 2024
- **JOEY RUSSELL GEORGE** (60), of Alexandria, Jan. 1, 2024
- **ANDREW WESLEY HULL** (76), of Alexandria, Jan. 13, 2024
- **EDWARD ORLER** (102), of Alexandria, Dec. 21, 2023
- **VICTOR LAWRENCE SUMMERS** (95), of Alexandria, Dec. 26, 2023
- **CHRISTOPHER TOMASINO** (62), of Alexandria, Dec. 22, 2023
- **MARY KELLY TOOMEY** (96), formerly of Alexandria, Jan. 2, 2024
- **JOSEPHINE RUTH WARFLE** (94), of Alexandria, Jan. 9, 2024

**Solutions from last week**

- **AUDREY SPIELMAN FENTON** (101), of Alexandria, Jan. 12, 2024
- **ANTHONY MICHAEL FRATO** (85), of Alexandria, Jan. 8, 2024
- **JOEY RUSSELL GEORGE** (60), of Alexandria, Jan. 1, 2024
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- **JOSEPHINE RUTH WARFLE** (94), of Alexandria, Jan. 9, 2024
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, January 20, 2024 at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

Public Hearing of an Ordinance to amend and reordain Section 2-4-100 (CREATION, COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION) of Article L (ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD) of Chapter 4 (COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS) of Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, by adding thereto a new subsection (18) to Re-Name Streets Currently Named for Confederated Leader

Public Hearing will be held by the Virginia Resources Commission (VMRC) beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, to consider an application submitted by CSX Transportation Inc. (VMRC #23-2504) requesting a permit from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to install three (3) cubic yards of riprap within vegetated wetlands associated with the construction of a culvert outlet pad at Roaches Run in Arlington County.

You may provide comments on this application (VMRC #2023-2504) at https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/habitat/comments/. We will accept comments by the USPS provided they are received within 15 days of this notice to: Marine Resources Commission, Habitat Management Division, 380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96, Hampton, VA 23651.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation (VMRC #233-2538) is requesting a permit from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to construct a 50-foot by 26-foot floating kayak launch, 30-foot gangway, and 6-foot by 8-foot asphalt landing to access Four Mile Run in the City of Alexandria. You may provide comments on this application (VMRC #2023-2538) at https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/habitat/comments/. We will accept comments by the USPS provided they are received within 15 days of this notice to: Marine Resources Commission, Habitat Management Division, 380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96, Hampton, VA 23651.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Celco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a top height of 159 feet on a building with an overall height of 162 feet at the approx. vicinity of 2727 Duke St, Alexandria, City of Alexandria, VA 22314, Lat.: [38-48-28.01], Long: [-77-04-39.59]. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Elsie, eboone@trileaf.com, 8600 LaSalle Road, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21286, 410-853-7128.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE SALE
January 18, 2024

By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust dated September 18, 2019, and recorded at Instrument Number 190012887 in the Clerk’s Office of the Circuit Court for City of Alexandria, Virginia, securing a loan which was originally $47,340,000.00, the appointed SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE, Kathleen S. Blaszak, will offer for sale at public auction the property located at 1725 DUKE STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314, (PARCEL ID NO: 073.02-01-04) as more fully described in said Deed of Trust. The sale will take place at the main entrance of the Circuit Court for City of Alexandria located at 520 King Street, Courthouse, Alexandria, VA 22314, on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 10:00 AM Eastern Time.

The property and improvements will be sold in “as is” physical condition without warranty of any kind.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder’s deposit of 10% of the sale price in cash or certified check payable to the Substitute Trustee is required at time of sale except for any bid by the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Balance of the purchase price must be paid by cash or certified check payable to the Substitute Trustee within 15 days from sale date. If Purchaser defaults, its deposit shall be forfeited and property may be resold at the risk of the Purchaser. If Substitute Trustee does not convey title for any reason, Purchaser’s sole and exclusive remedy is to return deposit without interest. The sale is subject to execution by the winning bidder of the contract of sale at the time of sale (a copy of which can be obtained in advance of the sale from the below contact party). Additional terms are set forth in the contract of sale and may be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given an opportunity to execute the contract of sale electronically.
COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR AND IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. THE SALE IS SUBJECT TO SELLER CONFIRMATION.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE: Kathleen S. Blaszak, 118 W Alexandria Ave, Alexandria, Virginia 22301
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: King & Spalding LLP
c/o Alan Noskow, Esq.
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite #900
Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone: (202) 626-5572
Email: anoskow@kslaw.com

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE ANALYST

Business Intelligence Analyst: Create business intel reports and analyze strategies & tech trends to identify markets & sales. MA in Business Admin. Send CV to Michael & Son Inc. 5740 General Washington Dr. Alexandria VA 22312

TRAINING & DEVELOP SPECIALIST

Training & Develop Specialist: Design training programs, manuals, and guides relating to efficiency, recycling, or enviroaffects. BA in Business Admin., 5 Yr. Exp. Send CV to Michael & Son Inc. 5740 General Washington Dr. Alexandria VA 22312

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