

## CANDIDATE PROFILE

### Canek Aguirre seeks third Council term

**Taxes, transportation, community engagement among chief concerns**

BY JAMES MATHESON



CANEK AGUIRRE

Canek Aguirre, the first Latino City Council member in the city's history, is seeking his third term. He plans to build upon the issues of housing, public education and health, while shifting his focus to transportation and community engagement.

The 13-year Alexandria resident plans to accomplish these tasks with a critical eye for equity.

"Trying to build a solid foundation in utilizing an equity lens has been very important to me. That's not something that happens from one day to another, even from one term to another. It really takes a long sustained approach," Aguirre said. "I'm hoping that even once I'm off the Council, this is something that stays embedded within the city and the culture."

The use of this lens has manifested through commitment to minority communities in Alexandria and the resources they depend on. Be it his influence in accommodating Spanish speakers on the DASH public bus system or expanding the bus routes to better service all city resi-

dents, Aguirre said his assistance toward minority groups expedites functionality in the daily lives of all Alexandrians.

"People forget that when we're putting policies in place and supports for the most vulnerable, we're actually putting in supports for everyone because you never know when you might fall into a similar situation and you'll need that support," he said.

Aguirre said he gravitated toward transportation issues when he was first elected to Council in 2018. Following COVID-19, he said he was all-in on the idea of creating a fare-free DASH system.

"Growing up [in Los Angeles, California,] I always had a pocketful of change so that I could ride the bus. Ironically, the local bus system was also known as DASH, just that it was purple and white instead

SEE AGUIRRE

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## ACPS admins placed on leave

**Move comes after 4-year-old student wandered away from Jefferson-Houston**

BY WAFIR SALIH



MELANIE KAY-WYATT, ED.D.

Alexandria City Public Schools Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., announced in an April 9 letter to parents and staff that top administrators at Jefferson-Houston Elementary School had been placed on administrative leave due to an incident that took place March 19.

The incident involved a 4-year-old nonverbal and autistic student who had wandered off of school property and was found nearly a

half-mile away near the King Street Metro station.

While Kay-Wyatt did not name the administrators who had been placed on leave, research by the Times, which was confirmed by an ACPS employee who asked to not be identified, indicated that Jefferson-Houston Transforma-

tional Head of School John McCain, Ed.D., and Academic Principal Tiffany Young were the top administrators that Kay-Wyatt placed on administrative leave.

A parent of a student at Jefferson-Houston also spoke with the Times under a request of anonymity about the incident and highlighted how difficult the situation must have been. The parent will be referred to under the alias "Mary Nancy."

"I cannot imagine what that parent must feel like. If I had a child who was four years old and nonverbal, I would be terrified too because she can't

SEE ACPS

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## ARISE calls for more money

**Affordable housing, Vulcan site, Israel-Hamas cease-fire discussed**

BY CAITLYN MEISNER

City Council's public hearing on Saturday was full of action, as a packed Council chambers had attendees

pushing for additional funds for ARISE, which was a docketed agenda item, while a large contingent also spoke during the public comment period asking Council to pass an Israel-Hamas cease-fire resolution. Councilors also engaged in a long discussion about the Vulcan site

redevelopment proposal.

Council chambers were so full as the meeting started at 9:30 a.m. that many speakers and onlookers had to go into the dedicated overflow room. Dozens of Alexandrians showed up to call for

SEE COUNCIL

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PHOTO/CAITLYN MEISNER

The group that showed up to call for more money for the ARISE program had many signs.

### INSIDE

#### Spring2ACTion

The annual day of giving is April 24.

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#### David Albright

An impressive career in nuclear weapons detailed.

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# CANDIDATE PROFILE



COURTESY PHOTO

Councilor Canek Aguirre helping young residents at the craft table at the Alexandria Library's Hispanic Heritage Month event at Beatley Library.



COURTESY PHOTO

Councilor Canek Aguirre greeting residents at the city's 2020 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

**AGUIRRE** FROM | 1 of the blue and yellow [in Alexandria]," Aguirre said.

While obtaining his bachelor's degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Aguirre utilized the free public transit there, traveling to and from school, his two restaurant jobs, shifts at a grocery store and at the UNC Medical School. He graduated in 2007 with a degree in Latin American studies.

The son of Mexican immigrants, Aguirre models his work ethic and politics on historical figures like Edward Roybal, Dolores Huerta and

Cesar Chavez. "What [Roybal] had to do to get onto that L.A. City Council was to build a coalition of Black people, Latinos [and] Jews to finally exert political power," Aguirre said.

Like Roybal, a Mexican-American politician from California, Aguirre helped to create a political action committee, Juntos Por Virginia, for Latino candidates across Virginia. He has also served on several boards and commissions, some city and some private, including the Tenants and Workers United board, the Economic Opportunities Commission, the Health

Systems Agency of Northern Virginia and the Health Service Commission.

Aguirre says his personal struggles – losing his home, facing housing insecurity in

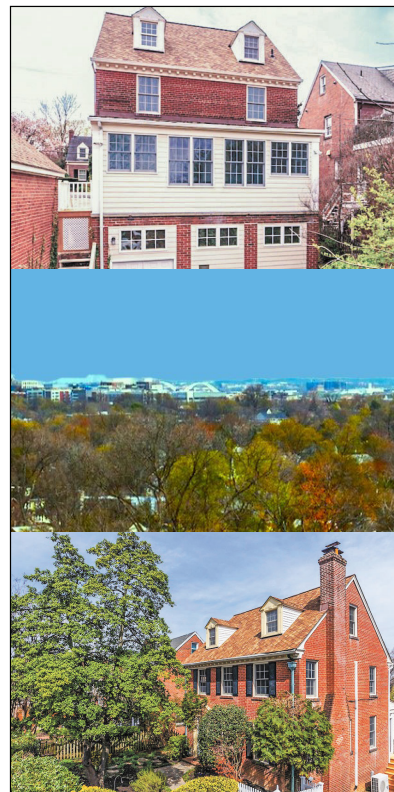
college and finding a place to live when he arrived in Alexandria – fueled his commitment to help others who are struggling to find housing. He knows from firsthand experience that

many issues facing low-income residents are difficult.

"Social determinants of health, food insecurity, housing

SEE **AGUIRRE**

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# CANDIDATE PROFILE



COURTESY PHOTO

Councilor Canek Aguirre tours the Potomac Yard Metro station under construction.

“ We need to create policies that are going to actually improve people’s lives and not keep it neutral or hurt them.”  
 – Canek Aguirre, city councilor

**AGUIRRE**

FROM | 3

insecurity, language barriers, poverty, take your pick,” Aguirre said. “I was dealing with it and I think it was [not an] easy transition for me.”

When Aguirre moved to Alexandria in 2011, his first job was at George Washington Middle School. Aguirre moved to the Port City because his girlfriend at the time – now wife of five years – had a job on Capitol Hill. He also wanted to explore what the DMV had to offer.

He said he quickly, without even realizing it, began his emergence into the Alexandria political scene during this time.

After a year at GW Middle School, Aguirre was promoted to help establish the Family and Community Engagement Center, which engages with

families and their students to promote academic success.

“I went from working at one school in one neighborhood to the entire school system across all of Alexandria,” Aguirre said. “Working with churches and nonprofits, city agencies and different groups, it really gave me insight into all the different groups within the city.”

Toward the end of 2017, he decided to run for Council. The desire to connect people to resources and make these resources more efficient motivated Aguirre to run, he said.

“It was always very frustrating to me: Why is this policy in place when it’s hurting people or why would you do a policy that in effect does nothing? We need to create policies that are going to actually improve people’s lives and not

keep it neutral or hurt them,” Aguirre said.

Aguirre now works in the private sector doing health consulting full time. He just concluded a project addressing the overrepresentation of minorities in health issues but an underrepresentation in drug trials. Both Aguirre’s work for the city and his daytime job are centered around advocacy-based efforts, he said, and are a culmination of his life experiences.

As Aguirre seeks reelection for a second time – after a three-year stint which he admitted was more difficult than his first – he has the potential to be the second most tenured member of Alexandria City Council; John Taylor

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Congressman Don Beyer delivering remarks at Councilor Canek Aguirre’s 2024 reelection kickoff event.



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COURTESY PHOTO

Councilor Canek Aguirre passing out cupcakes to residents at the city's annual birthday celebration.

AGUIRRE

FROM | 4

Chapman is seeking his fifth term on Council, while current Vice Mayor Amy Jackson, who has also served two terms on Council, is running for mayor.

This is a reality that scares Aguirre, he admitted. He says consistency and experience are important on Council.

"We've had to deal with some very controversial and divisive issues while I've been on Council these last five years," Aguirre said. "That's not to say that other Councils haven't had those same issues, it's just that I feel we've had a lot of things we've been challenged with and we've had to tackle."

It is this hands-on, challenging experience that motivated Aguirre to run for Council in 2018 and to twice seek re-election, he said.

One challenge motivating Aguirre is the effort to raise revenue in the city. He said three main issues have existed in Alexandria since his arrival in the early 2010s: a lack of affordable housing, problems with infra-

structure and "how the heck do we pay for everything."

He says the third question only has two possible answers: expand the commercial base or raise taxes. Given the limited amount of land available in Alexandria, expanding the commercial base is a difficult task, Aguirre said.

During the March 12 City Council legislative meeting, Aguirre proposed the largest increase in the tax rate of any Councilor: a hike of 6 to 7 cents, which would have raised the current tax rate by 5.4%, on top of the increase of 3.5% in the average tax burden that Manager Jim Parajon had already proposed.

Aguirre said he believes Alexandria's Metro stations are underutilized and supports additional building near the stations to generate revenue.

"We had an opportunity in Potomac Yard. It's still prime real estate. It's inside of the Beltway. It's right next to a Metro station. We're going to have to try to maximize that as much as possible," Agu-

irre said. "Unless something changes down in Richmond where they give us an opportunity to do something around income tax, we're stuck with two options."

He said after Richmond's rejection of Monumental Sports & Entertainment's arena proposal, it is too early to tell what other development opportunities exist for Potomac Yard. Aguirre did not confirm whether any project would be in the same scale as the proposed Monumental Sports & Entertainment District, but said his team will nonetheless pursue opportunities.

"You can sit around and complain about something or you can do something about it," Aguirre said. "There are different levels to doing that: maybe donating to someone or sending an email, maybe you're at a march or maybe you're part of strategic planning. Ultimately, if you're one of the people casting that vote, that's what makes the most difference."

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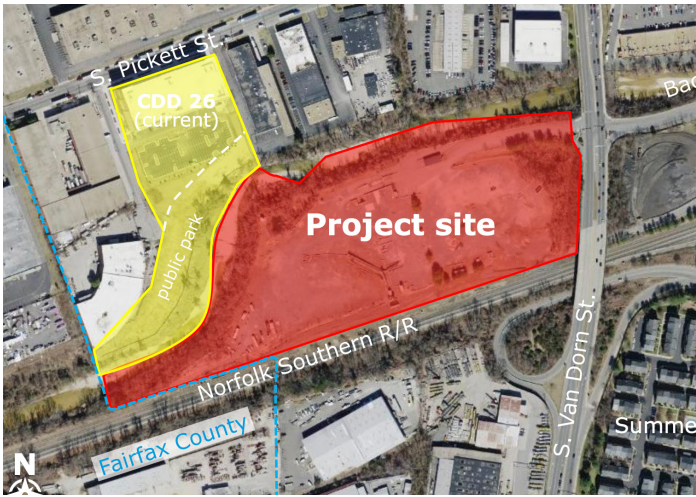
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MAP/CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

The approved site for the Vulcan redevelopment on South Van Dorn Street and Burnside Place.

**COUNCIL** FROM | 1

additional money for the Alexandria Recurring Income for Success and Equity, or ARISE, program. It's a guaranteed income pilot study that provides a \$500 monthly payment to 170 randomly selected participants for two years.

The budget addition is sponsored by Councilors Sarah Bagley and Canek Aguirre to provide an additional \$550,000 to the fiscal year 2025 budget.

It is co-sponsored by Councilors Alyia Gaskins and R. Kirk McPike.

In the proposal, it states these funds would be to "create a contingency ... to work on the best application of funding to bridge the completion of the pilot and the [fiscal year 2026] budget."

Many school-aged children, parents and senior citizens showed up at the hearing with signs as well, occupying much of the back of the cham-

ber. Signs were held as speakers shared their testimony, varying from "Include us in the budget!" to "Protect our low income community!"

"[My mother] has no day off, all to be able to pay the high cost of rent and to provide what is necessary for us," a 14-year-old Alexandria City High School International Academy student, said. "... My wish is that you support us because there's not enough housing for families like mine. We need programs like ARISE and housing vouchers to have a better quality of life."

Representatives from Tenants and Workers United and African Communities Together spoke in support of the additional ARISE funds and affordable housing.

"While we appreciate the good intention of Council members proposing [the addition] ... this is a great disappointment because our working-class families may only get the bare minimum as we see no commitment to expand to more families for future years," Ingris Moran, lead orga-

nizer of TWU, said. "We hope you can take action now."

Wilson said, in an interview with the Times, that housing creation and affordability is an important challenge, and the city has been working to increase resources and housing supply.

"During the last several budgets, we have increased resources every single year, and I imagine that this year – while we're not done yet – I think we will again increase the amount of resources that we have committed to the creation of affordable housing," he said.

Council also engaged in a discussion about the Vulcan site redevelopment following a staff presentation that recommended approval with conditions. The Planning Commission also approved the project unanimously.

At 701 South Van Dorn St. and 698 Burnside Place, there are several proposals for the area, including, but not limited to, amendments to the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan, a text amendment to include hotel and townhouses and a change the zoning map to a make the area a coordinated development district.

The applicant, Lennar Corporation and Potomac Land Group II, LLC, propose to redevelop the expansive 773,892 square foot lot into a new neighborhood with three new public streets, one private street, six private alleys and a new public park. The applicant also proposed building 31 townhomes, 88 stacked townhouses, six midrise buildings – that the apartment classified as condo flats – and a 256-room short-and long-stay hotel with ground-floor retail.

Councilor Canek Aguirre pointed out that this site would be an "island" without any affordable housing; the applicant vowed to voluntarily contribute a little more than \$3.5 million to the Housing Trust Fund, but no affordable units will be available on-site.

"The first speaker for this said that this is going to be a lot of opportunity. There will be. But my question is, opportunity for whom?" Aguirre said. "While on Council, we have put affordable housing everywhere, all across the city. What I'm seeing with this project is essentially an island."

He acknowledged the \$3.5 million was a lot of money, but asked the applicant and staff how far this money will go. Kenny Turscak, a housing analyst for the city, said there were possibly seven to 10 units that could be bought for affordability, but clarified these were rough estimates.

"Everybody knows that in this city, we are tight for land. And when we have the opportunity to actually utilize our land, and when we know there's a housing crisis going on ... but where is housing most needed? It's most needed at 40% and below of the area median income," Aguirre said. "I don't see how we can say this is OK though. Again, who is this opportunity for?"

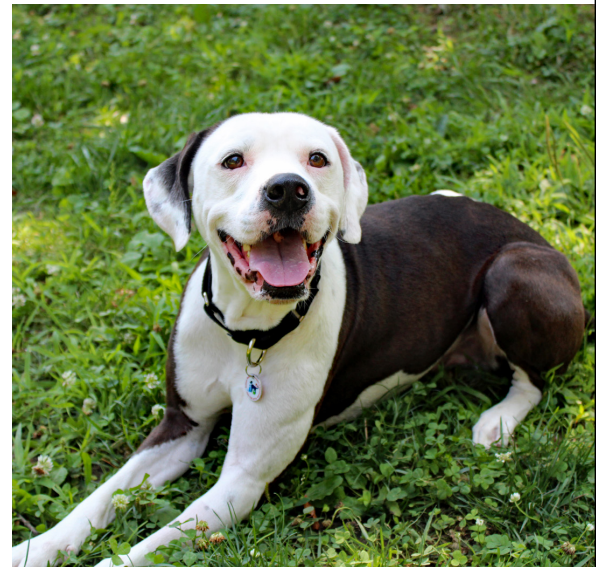
Ultimately, Council voted on the proposal and it was approved 5-1 with Aguirre being the only dissenting vote. Councilor John Taylor Chapman was absent from the chamber at this point and did not vote on the redevelopment.

More people spoke at the end of the meeting, several of which were calling for an Israel-Hamas cease-fire resolution. One speaker even engaged in a slight back-and-forth with Mayor Justin Wilson. Tristan Varma began his virtual testimony asking Council a question.

"Do you agree with the following statement? 'The people of Palestine are people.' If you could please raise your hand if you agree," Varma said.

Members of the organization, Alexandria for Palestinian Human Rights, were in attendance holding signs and





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**COUNCIL** FROM | 8

raised their hands, agreeing with Varma’s statement. Those supporting the organization were some of the only in-person onlookers that remained in the chambers holding “CEASE FIRE” and “CEASE FIRE NOW” signs.

Wilson responded, stating the public hearing period is just that: those on the dais do not engage in a question and answer session with speakers.

Varma pushed back on Council as several in the crowd raised their hands, but those on Council did not respond. He said if they disagreed with his original statement, they may keep their hand down.

“OK, I understand. So, just for the record, this will be remembered for the rest of human history that on April 13, 2024 [all on Council] refused to agree that the people of Pal-

estine are people,” Varma said. “... I feel absolutely confident that if you can’t agree [with the statement], you don’t deserve a political career.

“And I hate to say this, but I will do everything within my legal rights to make sure that you don’t. Don’t be so certain that I won’t succeed, because the people of Palestine are people whether you’re willing to engage with that question or not,” he added, finishing his statement to many snaps of approval from those in the crowd.

This exchange was posted to social media by the organization and has received, according to APHR member, Katie O’Connell, more than 50,000 views on Instagram. And this post has received more engagement from those who don’t follow the account too; @alx4palestine has just over 2,300 followers, but the post has more than 4,200 likes and 189 comments.

In an interview with the Times, Wilson said Council needs to “stay in our lane.”

“This is not appropriate for the City Council to weigh in on this; [it’s] not something we have expertise on or professional staff to advise ourselves on,” Wilson said. “I think we all have very personal views about what’s going on in the Middle East ... that being said, I just don’t feel like this is an appropriate thing for the Council to weigh in on.”

Alexandrians and regional residents alike have been calling on City Council for months to demand a cease-fire. Over 100 localities across the country – Atlanta, Austin, Chicago, Providence and Seattle are just a few of the major cities – have passed resolutions following the Oct. 7, 2023, attack, including Harrisonburg and Charlottesville, which passed as recently as April 1.

-cmeisner@alextimes.com

**ACPS** FROM | 1

say her name [or] tell anybody who she is. It’s the scariest thing you can think of as a parent,” Nancy said.

Nancy emphasized how parents and staff have been asking for more resources to go into the special education services at Jefferson-Houston for the past seven years.

“There are not enough resources to make sure that these kids are taught in the way that they need to be taught, with the resources they need to be safe,” she said.

The ACPS employee reached out to the Times via email under anonymity and expressed mixed feelings about the administrative changes, but also said school staff need to do better.

“I have seen some things that I don’t agree with, but I’m not the type of person that wants to see someone lose their job. The staff that is at the



**JOHN MCCAIN, ED.D.**

school needs to do better,” the employee wrote.

The employee highlighted how dismissal time at the end of the school can sometimes be hectic.

“When it’s time to leave, it’s a bit chaotic, and some of the teachers are focused on getting the kids out, but not paying attention to where they’re going,” the employee wrote.

And, the employee said they didn’t understand how the child had wandered off as far as she did.

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ACPS

FROM | 10

“There are several doors around the school, and what I guess is that the child may have used one of those doors to get out, but what I can not understand is how did she get that far?” the employee said.

Nancy said she believes this is a district-level problem and doesn't agree with Jefferson-Houston administrators taking the blame for what happened.

“I don't understand why the Jefferson-Houston administrators were put on leave. One of the administrators they put on leave isn't even involved in the pre-K program at all. ... They

weren't even involved with that grade at all,” Nancy said. “I think ACPS should be taking responsibility for not having adequately provided the resources that this child needed to learn in a safe way.”

According to a report by D.C. News Now, which broke the story, Brianna Davis-Suggs arrived at the school to pick up her daughter, Riley, on March 19. Davis-Suggs said she waited for more than 15 minutes and noticed school officials searching for a missing student.

“I hear over the walkie-talkies ‘there's a child missing,’ not even knowing it was my daughter,” Davis-Suggs said to D.C. News Now.

Police scanner audio from openmhz.com, recorded at 2:18 p.m. on March 19, reveals that officers from the Alexandria Police Department located Riley at the Metro station, and an officer noted in the recording that she was found barefoot.

In a Facebook post, Davis-Suggs shared how she felt in the immediate aftermath of learning her child was the one that had gone missing.

“I was standing outside waiting for a good 15 mins before I saw the principal, administration and school staff running out of the school building when I overheard on the walkies talkies that my child was lost,” Davis-Suggs wrote in the Facebook post. “I couldn't fight back my tears knowing that she had crossed streets with no shoes on and was found under the tunnel at King St. Metro Station.”

In a letter to Jefferson-Houston parents, Kay-Wyatt highlighted how concerning the incident was and stated that many employees had been put on administrative leave as a result.

“ I cannot imagine what that parent must feel like. ... It's the scariest thing you can think of as a parent.”

– “Mary Nancy,”  
anonymous parent of a Jefferson-Houston student

“You may be aware that a young Jefferson-Houston student left school grounds and was unsupervised for a portion of the afternoon on March 19, 2024. This is deeply concerning for me as an educator and as a parent. Families should feel confident that their children are safe in our schools, and I want you all to know that this matter is being taken seriously, and that further changes will be forthcoming. Several employees, including administrative staff, have been placed on administrative leave this week. In the interim, I have placed some new administrative and support staff at Jefferson-Houston while this matter is being investi-

gated,” Kay-Wyatt wrote in the letter.

Kay-Wyatt also stated PreeAnn Johnson, a former principal for James K. Polk Elementary, would take over as the acting head of schools at Jefferson-Houston, with Julia Neuffer, who currently serves as the division's STEM coordinator as well as a math instructor, would become the acting academic principal. Both Johnson and Neuffer assumed their roles on April 11.

ACPS declined to provide further comment to the Times, stating that they would not comment on personnel matters and that the incident is currently being investigated.

-wsalih@alextimes.com



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# DRCA holds mayoral candidate forum

**Vice Mayor Amy Jackson, Councilor Alyia Gaskins, Steven Peterson state their cases**

BY DENISE DUNBAR

The three candidates running for mayor in the Alexandria Democratic Primary – Vice Mayor Amy Jackson, Councilor Alyia Gaskins and challenger Steven Peterson – answered questions and presented 10-minute explanations of their platforms at a Del Ray Civic Association meeting on April 10.

All three candidates spent significant time talking about three of the topics raised in the questions: education, the now-dead arena proposal for Potomac Yard and affordable housing.

## Amy Jackson

Jackson spoke first and focused on her rootedness in the Alexandria community as a life-long resident of the city who attended T.C. Williams High School. Jackson has raised her two children, who also attend Alexandria City Public Schools, in the city.

“I’m a hometown girl. I was raised here. Raised in Foxchase not a mile from my house now,” Jackson said.

Jackson emphasized her 20 years as an educator, and touched on a couple of issues that she said are critical to the youth of our city: a lack of food security for many and the need for Alexandria’s young people to have constructive places to congregate.

“We have food insecurities still at pandemic levels ... but our school children don’t receive breakfast and lunch meals on holidays, weekends, spring break, winter break, things like that. So we’ve just provided again, a grant opportunity ... so I’m working with School Board members and our superintendent along with



**AMY JACKSON**

others in our schools to provide that type of service for our kids,” Jackson said.

Jackson repeatedly spoke of the importance of community in her remarks, from the sense of community that Alexandria and especially Del Ray is known for, to the need for Council to help Alexandria’s youth build community.

“You know, when I grew up here, we had Landmark Mall. And all the kids felt safe and they could hang out with friends. Be independent but not independent in a way. ... So we don’t have a mall anymore. We have Bradlee Shopping Center, where we’ve seen everybody gathering after school because there’s not a mall,” Jackson said. “We need an entertainment district for our youth.”

Jackson also emphasized that she was the only member of City Council to publicly oppose the arena project and the only Councilor to oppose the ordinance that allowed for accessory dwelling units. She added that preserving Alexandria’s, and Del Ray’s, history needs to be a priority as part of promoting tourism.

“You’ve also got to know I’m the history teacher. I’m happy about the tourism part. Especially when the hooks are usually Old Town Alexandria and Historic Del Ray – the Potomac Historic District. So those bring in the people and then the rest of our unique neighborhoods absolutely shine when people come to visit,” Jackson said.



**STEVEN PETERSON**

## Steven Peterson

Peterson spoke second in the random drawing of names. The former developer, hospice volunteer and 30-year resident of Alexandria began by describing himself as a passionate person.

“[I’m] not a typical politician and [am] unfiltered.... One of my goals is to bring compassion and humility to my role as mayor,” Peterson said.



Peterson offered both praise and criticism of current Mayor Justin Wilson during his remarks. Peterson said there’s a need to bring transparency back to the mayor’s office in Alexandria, but then immediately lauded the mayor.

“Mayor Wilson has navigated the city through some trying times,” Peterson said.

Peterson said ACPS is currently not adequately preparing our city’s students for life after graduation.

“We need to investigate how other municipalities around the country are being successful and mindshare with them,” Peterson said.

Peterson said there was not enough resident input into the arena proposal, but that Potomac Yard is such a prime parcel of real estate that it will “find a home eventually.”



**ALYIA GASKINS**

“I think it needs to be a town center. It needs to be an entertainment center,” Peterson said, echoing some of Jackson’s earlier remarks.

Peterson said the Dec. 13, 2023, arena announcement took most city residents by surprise, then again both praised and criticized Wilson.

“While City Council has made mistakes, the Council has taken the lead of Mayor Wilson in not creating its own agenda, while listening to the citizens is the most important trait I think. There has been a lack of transparency, which has led to a lack of trust,” Peterson said.

Peterson emphasized problems with crime in Alexandria, saying that the most important facet of being happy is to feel safe. He said increasing the police budget would be a top priority for him as mayor.

“But with the crime rate up 30%, car thefts up 58% in 2023, we can’t state that our city is a safe haven,” Peterson said.

Peterson said that Del Ray sidewalks and Old Town flooding are ongoing problems that need to be dealt with in the capital improvement program budget.

“So pick a timeframe, say the next three to five years, where these issues will be dealt with incrementally,” Peterson said.

## Alyia Gaskins

Gaskins, who said she was raised by a single mother, praised the community aspect of the Del Ray neighborhood.

“This is my home,” Gaskins said.

Gaskins recited a list of accomplishments from her two-plus years on Council, including expanding the summer youth employment program, accelerating investments in infrastructure and flooding and creating the new Office of Climate Action.

“I have led the charge to increase our dedicated funding for affordable housing,” Gaskins said.

She also touted her background in public health, urban planning and municipal finance.

“I know that our challenges can become opportunities with the right leadership,” Gaskins said.

Gaskins emphasized her responsiveness to resident input in her decision-making process as a Councilor.

“I’m most proud of my reputation on Council as someone who is responsive and who acts on what she hears,” Gaskins said.

Gaskins pledged to go into the community and get resident input as mayor, then create action plans that will be posted on the city website so residents can see what the city is working on.

“And you can hold us accountable for delivering,” she said.

Gaskins said that even though the arena proposal – on which she did not take a stand before it was abandoned by Monumental Sports & Entertainment CEO Ted Leonsis – did not proceed, she views the economic development of Potomac Yard as critical to the future of Alexandria.

“The way it was rolled out was a huge mistake,” Gaskins said. “[Residents] lost trust not only in the process but in their elected officials. And when we lose your trust, we have failed.”

-ddunbar@alextimes.com



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# WEDNESDAY APRIL 24, 2024



• **Why Give?** | These nonprofits are making a big difference for Alexandria!

## Giving back to the community we love

BY BRANDI YEE

The spirit of generosity is getting ready to shine with Spring2ACTion, Alexandria’s Giving Day quickly approaching on April 24. Spring2ACTion, hosted by ACT for Alexandria, is Alexandria’s biggest fundraising event. Since 2011, more than 80,000 generous donors have given nearly \$20 million dollars to more than 180 nonprofits through Spring2ACTion, making it one of the most successful citywide giving days in the country.

Last year, 8,331 donors raised more than \$2.96 million for 186 nonprofits serving Alexandria. This year, for our 14th annual event, our goal is for 10,000 donors to give to the 188 organizations.

### What is Spring2ACTion?

Spring2ACTion is a 24-hour online giving event that inspires individuals to make a difference in their community by connecting them to the local causes they’re passionate about on an easy-to-use giving platform, powered by GiveGab.

### Why should I give?

Spring2ACTion is a way to celebrate and support the nonprofits in Alexandria that make this community a better place for everyone to live. Your gift could be matched and even help your favorite nonprofit win a prize. If you are new to giving, this is a great opportunity to find a new organization to support. Everyone can give as the minimum donation is \$5.



**BRANDI YEE**

Every dollar makes a difference. Last year’s funds supported service-learning opportunities for students, field trips for elementary school students, STEM programming, robotics competition scholarships, equitable access to dance classes, language access and coaching for multicultural families, reentry support, historic preservation, healthcare for uninsured patients, animal rescue and finding forever homes and families and much more.

Visit the Spring2ACTion site to learn more about how nonprofits have benefitted from this day of giving in previous years.

### To whom should I give?

Your favorite nonprofit(s)! Visit our website to see a list of participating organizations. Don’t know where to give? You can also search by cause and find new organizations to support.

You can also give to the ACT Youth Council by adding a small optional donation of \$5 or \$10 or more at checkout. Your generosity ensures that ACT Youth Council members have the tools they need to support youth voices, address prominent is-

sues and make meaningful change in our community.

### Where should I give?

Online at Spring2ACTion.

org – you can give through your computer, tablet or via your smartphone. It’s easy to pay via Apple Pay, Google Pay, ACH transfer or by credit card.

### When should I give?

Now! While the official Spring2ACTion Day is April

SEE **SPRING2ACTION** | 19



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■ Mission

Great Futures Start Here at Dunbar Alexandria-Olympic Club. Keep the Boys & Girls Club in mind when considering your Spring2Action contributions. Our United Way giving number is 8047.




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# Steven Peterson

MAYOR | ALEXANDRIA

*Please support Alexandria's outstanding nonprofits during Spring2ACTion!*

- **Safety first**  
30% increase in crime rates in 2023.
- **Our seniors** have wisdom. Everyone, regardless of age, needs to be heard.
- **Student Education**  
The current system isn't working.
- **Affordable Housing**  
The City needs to create housing that meets all its citizens needs and not just the affluent.
- **Taxes**  
82% tax rate on citizens is far too high.
- **Transparency**  
The City has been governed from the top down with little input from our citizens.
- **Animal Welfare**  
As a City, we need to support our local Animal Welfare League and animal rescue groups.
- **The Arena**  
I was the only candidate for mayor that spoke out again the Arena from the beginning.

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Volunteering at a local food bank.

**Our City. Your Voice!**





“ The best thing to do with the best things in life is to give them away.”

- Dorothy Day

**SPRING2ACTION** FROM | 17

24, early giving is going on now. It's kind of like early voting, but you can give early and often.

**How can I help?**

- **Donate** online at Spring2Action.org to your favorite nonprofit(s) and learn about new ones. A donation of any size will make a big difference.
- **Support** our local businesses and nonprofits by visiting the Events page at spring2action.org/info/events
- **Spread** the word by texting a friend, sharing about Spring2Action via email or social

media using #Spring2Action or by word-of-mouth.

• **Follow** @ACTforAlexandria on Facebook, @ACTforAlex on X and @ACTforAlexandria on Instagram for updates on April 24.

**How are local businesses involved?**

Many other local businesses will be supporting the day by offering promotions and donating a percentage of sales – details can be found on our website.

**Who is responsible for Spring2Action?**

Spring2Action is hosted

by ACT for Alexandria, the community foundation and home for philanthropy in Alexandria.

This event would not be possible without the generous support of City of Alexandria, Amazon, Passport Auto, The Patterson Group of TTR | Sotheby's, Golden Gate Foundation, Madigan Schuler, Sikich, Penny Post, Pippin Toy Co., Red Barn Mercantile, McEneaney Associates, BASH Boxing, Brown Advisory, Wegmans, Clarke & Sampson, Marks-Woods Construction Services, Betsey R. Rosenbaum and Jon H. Rosenbaum Fund, Transurban and Virginia

Tech. Media sponsors include: Alexandria Gazette Packet, Alexandria Living Magazine, Alexandria Stylebook, Alexandria Times, ALXNow and The Zebra. ACT Annual Partners include: Alexandria Restaurant Partners, ALX Community, Colonial Parking and Reingold.

Join us as we #Spring2Action on April 24 and make Alexandria a vibrant community for all!

*The writer is chief program officer at ACT for Alexandria. She can be reached at brandi.yee@actforalexandria.org.*



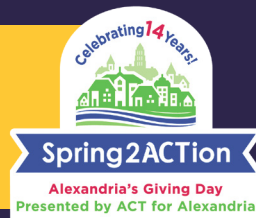
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Donate on April 24.

**Make a meaningful investment in our students at Alexandria public schools this Spring2Action.**

Your donation this Spring2Action will help us meet the urgent need to fill **175 MORE** classrooms with our Active Seating Packages! Active seating—like stationary bikes, under desk pedals, accordion stools and wiggle cushions—helps our students channel their natural need to move so they stay engaged and focused so everyone learns better. That's the cool brain-building science of movement!

Donate this Spring2Action and your gift will have **DOUBLE** the impact thanks to The LizLuke Team, Simpson Development, Rosemont Landscaping, The UPS Store Old Town Alexandria and the Move2Learn Board of Directors.



**EARLY GIVING IS OPEN!**  
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[@move2learnkids](https://twitter.com/move2learnkids)





“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

# Support the Alexandria Library



**DONATE**

**April 10–24**

Help us keep our Library’s vital resources, programming for all ages, and welcoming spaces accessible to all by donating today.



Give now: Scan the QR code above or visit [spring2action.org/organizations/alexandria-library-foundation](http://spring2action.org/organizations/alexandria-library-foundation)



## FUN FACTS

- Beverley Hills Church Preschool families volunteered more than 2,800 hours operating our school in 2023!
- In a single year, the Alexandria Library loans out more than 1.4 million books and eMaterials.



— AT HOME IN —  
**ALEXANDRIA**

**A community of support and enrichment for our Alexandria neighbors ages 55+**

At Home in Alexandria joins our fellow nonprofits in thanking you for supporting the nonprofit community during this Spring2ACTION fundraising campaign. At Home in Alexandria celebrates 13 years of helping to keep our older neighbors, safe, confident, informed and engaged.

[www.spring2action.org/organizations/at-home-in-alexandria](http://www.spring2action.org/organizations/at-home-in-alexandria)

703-231-0824

[www.athomeinalexandria.org](http://www.athomeinalexandria.org)



“ I think people forget that it doesn't take a big donation to help someone, just a lot of little donations.”

- Hannah Teter

### FUN FACTS

- Since 2018, Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation volunteers have removed 15 tons of litter from the Run.
- The Child & Family Network Centers' is in its 40th year of serving the City of Alexandria!
- The Prevention of Blindness Society gave eye clinics and free glasses in Alexandria.
- Move2Learn is in its 15th year of helping students learn better.

“ No one has ever become poor by giving.”

- Anne Frank



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**“ We must give more in order to get more. It is the generous giving of ourselves that produces the generous harvest.”**

- Orison Swett Marden

## HOW MUCH WILL GO TO THE NONPROFIT?

**For each online donation, a 7% + \$0.30 will be applied at checkout.**

This covers a small management fee of 2.5% for ACT for Alexandria to partially offset extensive staff support, marketing, training, planning and hosting Spring2ACTion; a GiveGab platform fee of 2% for building & maintaining a secure site and live support; and a standard credit card company fee of 2.5% + \$0.30 on a per transaction basis will apply. If a donor uses the bank account withdrawal (ACH) payment option, there is a flat rate \$3 charged instead of the credit card processing fee. ACH payments will be available for donations of \$100 or more.

**Donors have the option to cover these fees for the organization.**

In 2023, 70.3% of donors covered fees, meaning the nonprofit(s) received

100% of the intended gift.

**100% of ACT management fee goes directly to support, build and improve Spring2ACTion year over year.** Without the financial support generated through fees this event would not be possible.

**The fees for Spring2ACTion are significantly less than other types of fundraisers.** A 65%-75% net profit is standard for events such as galas, golf tournaments, luncheons, races/runs etc.

For Spring2ACTion, nonprofits are making 93%+ net profit on donations.

**Tails High**

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**TAILS HIGH NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

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Spring2ACTion and donate on **April 24th!**

**SCAN TO DONATE NOW**

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[facebook.com/tailshigh](https://www.facebook.com/tailshigh)

[@tailshigh](https://www.instagram.com/tailshigh)



“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.”

- H. Jackson Brown Jr.

## WHAT IS THE GOAL?

Let’s encourage 10,000 donors to raise \$2 million for our community! The vision of Spring2ACTion is a community where everyone contributes to our nonprofit organizations. There are three primary goals:

- 1. Grow philanthropy** – Create a fun and engaging way to learn about the critical issues impacting our community and inspire people to give
- 2. Grow revenue** – Bring new donors and develop a new funding stream to the organizations that make our community and its future strong
- 3. Grow supporters** – Educate the community on the positive impact Alexandria’s nonprofit organizations have on their lives.

## FUN FACTS

- Tails High is 100% run by passionate and dedicated cat-loving volunteers.
- Heard has taught 1,256 art classes to more than 10,363 people in need since 2017!
- UpCycle saved almost 40,000 lbs of discarded materials in 2023!
- Inspira Dance provides bilingual Latin dance classes in ACHS and eight other area schools.

Heard is an arts program that amplifies each voice



Heard’s mission is to foster creativity, confidence, self-worth, and life skills in adults who are underserved, unknown, and unheard by offering them artistic expression through experiential instruction and participation.



### HEARD'S 5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND ARTIST SHOWCASE

ALX Community Waterfront  
Wednesday, April 24 | 6:00 – 8:00pm

Use the QR code to purchase tickets or donate to help us meet our \$10k match!



**“If the money we donate helps one child or can ease the pain of one parent, those funds are well spent.”**

- Carl Karcher

# My first Spring2ACTion

BY VANNICE EVANS

This year marks my first Spring2ACTion, and I couldn't be more thrilled to be part of this incredible initiative. As a new Alexandrian it was imperative for me to find a way to sup-

port causes close to my heart. Through engaging with the nonprofits involved in Spring2ACTion, I've been able to engage my passions of education, housing, and rehabilitation services through my professional and academic career.

The opportunity to contribute during Spring2ACTion fills me with anticipation, and I eagerly await the chance to share the remarkable endeavors of these nonprofits with my loved ones. Witnessing the dedication of the nonprofit heroes who tirelessly assist those in need is truly inspiring.

Being able to engage with nonprofits made me realize the impact of collective giving. In a post-pandemic world, many nonprofits find themselves grappling with limited resources, while simultaneously confronting emergent challenges that demand swift action. Knowing the vulnerable state nonprofits are in, I will Spring2ACTion to ensure the sus-

tainability of my community. Through collective giving, each participating nonprofit will gain access to essential resources, enabling them to enhance their services, launch innovative programs for youth and expand their network of supporters.

Not only have I had the chance to connect with many Alexandria nonprofits, but also with high school students. Before coming to the city, I had never seen youth participating in philanthropy.

In my role, I have the unique experience of learning how Spring2ACTion directly impacts youth through the ACT for Alexandria Youth Council. Observing the Youth Council articulate how Spring2ACTion has empowered them to engage with community leaders, partake in meaningful service projects and

even establish their own nonprofits, has been truly inspiring.

This experience has fueled my enthusiasm to educate middle and high school students about Spring2ACTion this year. From my interactions with Alexandria's youth, it's evident that they already harbor strong ties with nonprofits and are eager to inspire others to give back.

I plan to foster collective giving through social media. With Instagram's story function and Facebook Live, I can create short videos on why "I Spring2ACTion" and highlight my favorite nonprofits. I challenge everyone to join me in celebrating the wonderful things happening in our beloved community!

*The writer is an associate at ACT for Alexandria.*



*has been providing health care in Alexandria for over 25 years to those who need it most.*

Last year over 11,000 City of Alexandria residents were our patients.

Our focus is always on equity: ensuring that everyone has access to health care, regardless of ability to pay.



**DONATE TODAY AND DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT**

at the Spring2ACTion website between now and April 24!



[www.spring2action.org/organizations/neighborhood-health](http://www.spring2action.org/organizations/neighborhood-health)



Neighborhood Health is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; Federal ID# 54-1849891.



**Join your neighbors in supporting a clean and healthy Four Mile Run**

*Photo courtesy of Todd Kiraly*



Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation  
[www.fourmilerun.org](http://www.fourmilerun.org)





“When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.”

- Mary Angelou



Vannice Evans.

COURTESY PHOTO



### FUN FACTS

- Neighborhood Health has provided care to 11,024 Alexandria residents in 2023; 627% more than in 1997!
- Velocity Bike Coop provides over 100 scholarship bikes, lights, locks and helmets annually.

## THE FUND FOR ALEXANDRIA'S CHILD EMERGENCY BED FUND



The Fund for Alexandria's Child's (The Fund) mission is to enhance the lives of foster and at-risk youth in our community. The Fund tackles that mission in a variety of ways each year by providing enrichment and basic needs to more than 100 children and teens experiencing foster care and hundreds of youth at risk of being placed in foster care.

Over the last few years, we have seen an increase in the number of emergency needs particularly around beds.




Every child deserves a safe place to sleep.

Scan the QR Code to give a child a place to dream



Department of Community and Human Services

**Spring2Action**



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**Scores of awesome "as is" bikes for all ages!**

\* 1502 Mt. Vernon Ave. Behind Al's Steaks



**“Charity is a universal remedy against discord and a holy cement for mankind.”**

- William Penn

## CAN I FUNDRAISE FOR MY FAVORITE NONPROFIT?

Yes! You can be a champion for the cause(s) you care about – we call these **Free Agent Fundraisers!**

**1. Become a champion for your nonprofit.** If you weren't invited to fundraise for an organization, you can still sign up to be a fundraiser!

- Visit the organization's profile.
- Click the "Fundraise" button!
- Use the toolkit for ideas, sample text and all you need to fundraise.

**2. Spread the word.** Talk about Spring2ACTION with friends, family,

and colleagues. Email your friends. Post about on it Facebook or share one of the posts on the Spring2ACTION Facebook Page. Tweet about it or retweet one of ours from Spring2ACTION Twitter Page. Change your profile picture and cover photos to Spring2ACTION graphics.

Please note that in order to create a Fundraising Page you will be prompted to sign into your GiveGab user account, or create one if you don't already have an account.

Free Agent Fundraisers also have the opportunity to win up to \$5,000 for their favorite nonprofit on a separate leaderboard.

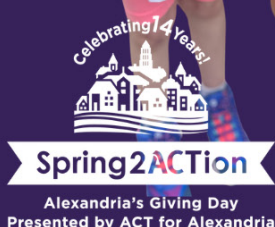
# HORIZON DAY CAMP

JUNE 24 - AUGUST 2



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- Booker T. Washington

## FUN FACTS

- Carpenter’s Shelter gratefully engages more than 1,200 volunteers.
- Horizon Day Camp Metro DC has offered 58 days of FREE camp to 88 kids with cancer and their siblings since 2022.
- Community Lodgings’ Youth Education students receive 530 hours of academic enrichment support.
- ALIVE! provided more than 1.3 million meals to Alexandrians in need in 2023

“Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you.”

- Princess Diana



♥ Tilley

How can you help save a life every day?

Give during the Spring2Action one-day, online fundraiser on April 24 and you will help Alexandria’s only no-kill, all-volunteer cat rescue facility save special needs cats and kittens like Tilley.

Just a \$5 donation from YOU will help King Street Cats rescue a cat from a shelter or the streets and provide it with a safe haven until it finds a forever home!

**What:** Give during the one-day Spring2Action fundraiser

**When:** Wednesday, April 24

**Where:** [gvgb.co/KSCS2A](http://gvgb.co/KSCS2A)



King Street Cats is 100% volunteer-run  
ALL of your donation goes to feline care

Can't wait until April 24<sup>th</sup>?  
Early giving starts April 10<sup>th</sup>  
Scan the QR code above or visit  
[gvgb.co/KSCS2A](http://gvgb.co/KSCS2A)



**“You can give without loving, but you can never love without giving.”**

- Victor Hugo

## ADDITIONAL FAQ

**Q. Do I need an account on GiveGab to donate?**

No, donors do not need to create an account to make a donation. A donor account will, however, collect tax receipts in one location, enable tracking of donations, provide the ability to follow supported charities, and engage in future volunteering and donations. A tax receipt is emailed to the donor immediately after their donation is processed. To claim a donation as a deduction on U.S. Taxes, the donor should retain the email donation receipt as an official record.

**Q. Can I make my donation early for Spring2ACTION?**

Yes! Starting April 10, donors will be able to make their Spring2ACTION donation in advance, while still having it count toward the giving day. Simply go to [www.Spring2ACTION.org](http://www.Spring2ACTION.org), search for the nonprofit you

wish to support and make a donation.

**Q. Is there a limit to the amount an organization can receive?**

There is no maximum amount an organization may receive for Spring2ACTION.

**Q. When individuals donate for Spring2ACTION, who will receive their information?**

The nonprofit organization receiving the donation will receive the contact information for the donor, unless the donor chose to make their donation anonymous from the organization. Donors will have the option to identify as an anonymous donor to the public and/or the nonprofit organization. Donors will also have the option to keep their donation amount hidden from the public. As the host of Spring2ACTION, ACT for Alexandria will also receive the information in order to send news and updates about Spring2ACTION related activities. We will not share your information.



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# BETTER *with* AGE



PHOTO/NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON NORTH KOREA

David Albright during one of the many Congressional hearings he's been asked to testify in.



COURTESY PHOTO

David Albright recently in Old Town.

## A physicist's travels through time

**David Albright's career is one for the ages**

BY CAITLYN MEISNER

Amid the hustle and bustle of a coffee shop in Old Town sits a quiet man with circular framed glasses, a blue button-down shirt and a sweater draped over his shoulders sipping on a small cup of coffee.

But, this isn't any older gen-

tleman who got out of bed and decided to dress up for his outings that day. This is David Albright, an esteemed physicist, weapons expert and founder of the Institute for Science and International Security, or ISIS.

"We call it the Good ISIS now," Albright joked, referencing the Islamic militant organization ISIS, also known as the Islamic State, that the U.N. has

designated a terrorist organization. The nongovernmental's handle on X – formerly known as Twitter – is even @TheGoodISIS.

Born in 1951, Albright was a small town boy growing up just north of Chicago with his three brothers, sister and parents when his family moved to Troy, Ohio, just before his freshman year of high school.

It was in these formative years that he realized he loved math in particular; but, with physics, he said there was no one moment or realization for him, just that he was intrigued by the integration of space and time.

After graduating from high school Albright received his bachelor's degree in 1975 from Wright State University in Day-

ton, Ohio. He then went on to receive his master's degree in mathematics in 1977 from the same school. Albright has since received an honorary doctorate from Wright State in 2007.

He also holds a master's of science in physics from Indiana University, which he received in 1980.

"Time travel can happen around a black hole. You can't survive it," Albright said. "The

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*Times Living*

### Downsizing

Have the stars aligned for you to find a smaller home?

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### The Mindfulness Project

The city's initiative is taking off this month focused on gratitude.

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### The Eagle Lady

Elizabeth van Laer Speer Hartwell's work to save the bald eagles.

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PHOTO/C-SPAN

David Albright at a November 2014 panel at the Brookings Institution discussing nuclear negotiations with Iran.

**ALBRIGHT**

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whole question of the integration of space and time ... you get all these unusual anomalies from relativity theory. I did study this in graduate school; you can literally study it mathematically.”

Albright recalled his professors were dismayed at these questions that he merely wanted to study, not conduct research projects on. But, he soon realized that in this line of work, he'd be competing with Stephen Hawking.

“He was one of the pioneers

of this idea of large scale structure of space-time,” he said. “It was a small field; it's still a small field and very mathematical. Everything is proven by contradiction.”

He said this field wasn't all that inspiring, constantly having to wonder and contradict previously published theories. But, coming of age during the Cold War presented itself with a potential career option: nuclear weapons.

“The War Game,” a 1966 British pseudo-documentary about nuclear war and its aftermath, was shown in one of

Albright's high school classes which, he said, was the first concrete impression of nuclear weapons he had at that point.

“That certainly had a big impact on my life,” Albright admitted. “Physics and math was kind of fun. This was a much more serious application.”

With the inauguration of former President Ronald Reagan in January 1981, Albright had his sights set on Washington, D.C. – effectively quitting his doctoral program – to oppose Reagan's nuclear weapon expansion.

Albright said he wanted to

use his physics education for social benefit rather than further studies. He clarified that what he wanted to do was not nuclear physics, but rather looking at alternatives and preventing other nations from obtaining them.

Albright founded the Institute in 1993, but prior to that, he was a consultant to the Environmental Policy Institute, where he analyzed issues related to nuclear power and worked to discover how much plutonium was in the world at the time.

During that time he worked with “atomic veterans,” or people who had witnessed atmospheric nuclear weapons tests in the 1950s.

“There was a belief that we would have a nuclear war by about 1960 ... so they ran thousands of GIs, put them in trenches within a kilometer of the atmospheric blast and then they'd march toward ground zero,” Albright recalled. “I spent a lot of time analyzing the radiation [in the GIs] and trying to fight the government, which already

said nothing happened.”

He then worked as a senior staff scientist at the Federation of American Scientists and as a researcher at Princeton University's Center for Energy and Environmental Studies.

In the late 1980s, as Albright was studying Iraq's secret nuclear program and consistently traveling to Germany, he met his wife of more than 30 years, Rika. They have a daughter together, Anna Leia.

In the early 1990s, Albright was involved with nuclear inspections during the 1991 Gulf War following a United Nations Security Council resolution requiring Iran to fully get rid of its nuclear program.

In 1997, Albright co-wrote a groundbreaking book, “Plutonium and Highly Enriched Uranium 1996: World Inventories, Capabilities and Policies.” It is a revision of a 1992 edition of the same book and provides a comprehensive assessment of the amounts of plutonium in several nations across the globe.

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**ALBRIGHT** FROM | 30

“It was the first time anyone had ever put all this together,” Albright said. “It was actually needed by governments because the U.S. had estimates, but they were classified. Britain had estimates, Russia had estimates. Our book allowed governments to talk to each other.”

He’s written and co-written a number of other books, including but not limited to, “Challenges of Fissile Material Control,” “Revisiting South Africa’s Nuclear Weapons Program,” “Illicit Trade Networks – Connecting the Dots” and his latest, “Iran’s Perilous Pursuit of Nuclear Weapons.”

This was a busy time for Albright, as he also became the first nongovernmental inspector of the Iraqi nuclear program in June 1996; he questioned members of the nation’s former uranium enrichment programs.

Also, notably, in September 2002, Albright and the Institute were the first to publicly criticize former President George W. Bush’s administration and the CIA about Iraqi aluminum tubes. The claim from the administration was that “Iraq not only had reconstituted its nuclear weapons program but would soon be able to produce highly enriched uranium for nuclear weapons,” accord-

ing to a December 2003 Institute report.

Albright believes much of the press around that time was coordinated with Sunday morning talk show appearances of top Bush administration officials. He recalled the timing of the release of a New York Times piece by Judith Miller being just too late.

Miller published a series of stories in 2002 and 2003, suggesting Saddam Hussein had or was developing an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction; Bush was making similar claims around the same time, which Albright believes was to justify going to war in the Middle East. Many of these articles have been criticized, and the New York Times published a piece of its own calling these articles “problematic.”

“I was at a funeral in Atlanta, and I was coming back to [the District] that Sunday morning, saw the story, and when I got home, I had a message on my home phone [from Miller],” Albright recalled. “I called her and said, ‘You know, there’s another side to this.’ But, it was really too late.”

He said the time following this bombshell story was “an uphill battle,” as the Institute was not accustomed to the amount of press coverage that was building over the issue. Despite being the first to criticize the administration,

Albright and the Institute were unaware of how powerful the media frenzy would be.

“We were always kind of one step behind,” Albright admitted. “... We learned a lot from that experience.”

He continued, adding that the Institute continued pub-

lishing as much as they could to spread the truth.

“We were horrified [the government] was pushing this whole new, untrue story, and then also wanting inspection but really not being prepared to deal with it,” he said. “The whole administration, from

president on down.”

Albright said a large part of what the Institute does is government accountability. The Institute’s website states it is dedicated to not only informing the public about

SEE **ALBRIGHT**

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PHOTO/C-SPAN

David Albright speaking at the Hudson Institute in November 2022 about saving the Iran nuclear deal.



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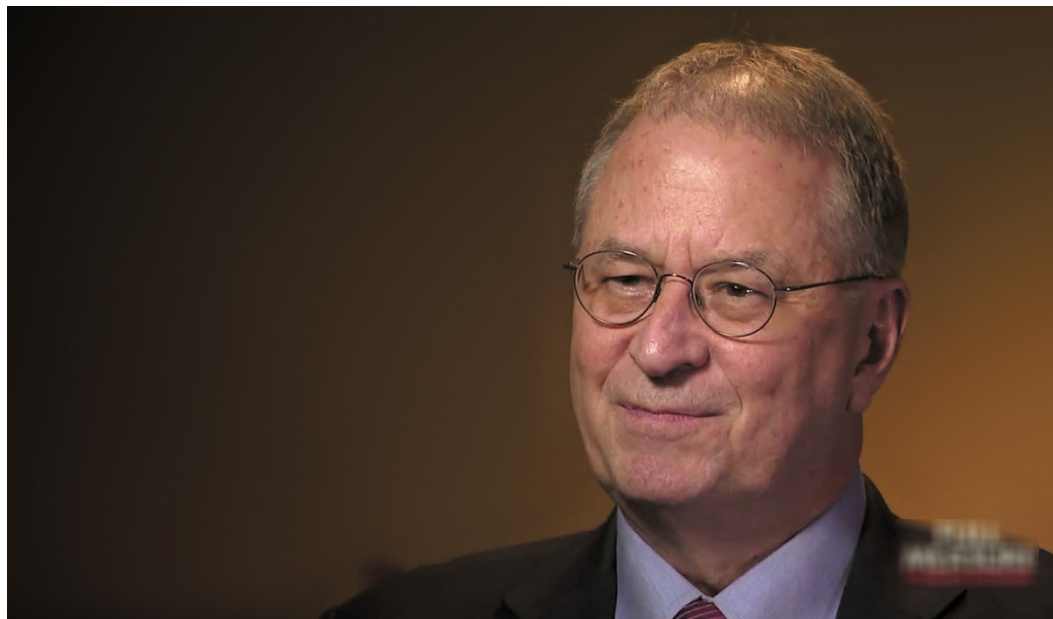
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international security policy, but is also focused on stopping the spread of nuclear weapons.

“The U.S. government is so big that we can be working with one part of it and opposing another part of it,” Albright said with a laugh. “We’re not lobbying, developing a set of talking points and we don’t lobby for legislation either. ... We always saw ourselves in the background.”

In the years since the Iraq war, Albright has remained president and chairman of the board at the Institute, running it from both Germany and his home in Alexandria. He and his wife travel often, splitting the time between their respective home countries.

Albright said he loves the walkability of both of his residences, especially the emphasis on bicycling in Germany. It’s what he appreciates about Old Town spe-



PHOTO/AJAC

David Albright has appeared on many television news networks to provide his expertise.

cifically, in its similarity to some European cities.

Though Albright has worked extensively with journalists throughout his career, he has decreased his presence on broadcast television programs, as he said it feels more

partisan these days. Instead of wanting an expert to speak on important issues, he said it feels more personality-based.

He’s also made numerous appearances to discuss Iran’s nuclear capabilities, often appearing on panels and in front

of Congress to testify. In October 2017, Albright was one of four experts to speak in front of the House Foreign Affairs Committee ahead of former President Donald Trump’s decision to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal.

“There is a need for Congress to start thinking through legislation to fix this deal,” Albright said in the committee hearing. “I think it is a priority to focus on how to ensure that the inspectors get in there.”

Despite being in his early 70s, Albright doesn’t see a path to full retirement just yet.

“I had started to retire. I went half-time about 18 months ago, [but] there’s a real shortage of people to do this kind of work,” he said. “A colleague in his 80s was outraged I was thinking of retirement at 70.”

He said this is a larger problem within the NGO world: there just aren’t enough people.

“We just don’t have the means to bring up people,” Albright said. “My institute was given money to start that process so we now start teaching at least one-day courses, bringing in more young people to work. We’re trying.”

-cmeisner@alextimes.com

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# Have the stars aligned for downsizing?

BY PETER CROUCH

A years-long trend toward fewer houses on the market has only become a more acute shortage. When the COVID-19 pandemic first hit, we all obeyed stay-at-home orders, and even fewer of us were selling our houses than in prior years.

When safety measures became standard protocol, however, buyers and sellers returned to the market. Those homeowners not in the market, meanwhile, refinanced at historically low rates of 3% or less.

## The state of the market

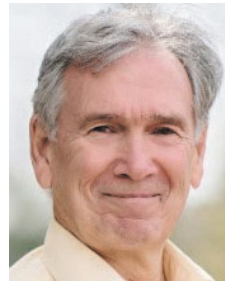
Now, a few years later, there remain more buyers than sellers, and the number of homes for sale remains extremely low. The overall effect has been that prices have accelerated and most well-maintained homes are receiving multiple offers

when they go to market. It is tough to be a buyer these days, but great to be a seller.

That dynamic can keep a seller from considering a move since they will likely be buyers for their next house. When you look more closely, however, it could be a wonderful time to move to smaller housing. The statistics show that the housing shortage is most acute in the single family arena.

The number of detached houses in particular, is way down over previous years, followed by townhouses. Shortages have been building for several years and have stifled the folks who want to move up to more space. Condominiums have not had as much demand; in fact, the supply of condos on the market overall is up from years past. It is generally less of a seller's market in the condo world.

There is also a great crop of



**PETER CROUCH**

new senior housing choices in our area as well as luxury rental apartments. All provide considerably less maintenance and the convenience of being able to lock up and travel for as long as you want.

## Why downsize now

So what is the opportunity for downsizing? Single family prices have accelerated by as much as 40% in the last three years, depending of course on location and condition.

For many existing homeowners, that means their homes are worth much more – often \$200,000 to even \$500,000.

Plus, condos are generally the softer part of the market, again depending on location and condition. For anyone who was considering downsizing before the pandemic, this could be a wonderful opportunity to sell high and buy low. If the thought is to move away from our high-cost area, the benefit could be even more accentuated.

Another factor is the treatment of capital gains taxation on the sale of a principal residence. Every taxpayer selling a principal residence is entitled to an exclusion of gain of between \$250,000 to \$500,000 for a couple.

So, if a house has gone up dramatically in recent years, and you are thinking of going smaller, you could have a

nice opportunity to go smaller with a great tax benefit. There is, however, a hint that capital gains tax treatment may change, so it could be the best time to take those winnings off the table, so to speak. A couple can take half a million dollars of tax-exempt profit on their house.

It might be time to consider, or reconsider, moving to smaller, less maintenance one-level housing. The opportunity right now is to take advantage of the strength of the single-family market, the choices for “next” housing and the current favorable tax treatment of housing gains.

Dad always told me to buy low and sell high. Have the stars aligned for you?

*The writer is an associate broker with McEneaney Associates.*



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# The Mindfulness Project

BY DAWN M. HIGGINS, PH.D.

Today, what are you grateful for?

This is the question being asked around the City of Alexandria from April 15 to April 21 because the city's Commission on Aging is leading a community art activity called the Mindfulness Project.

The purpose of the project is to create awareness about the many services available to aging adults in the city and to promote wellness in the community through a mindfulness activity. Chalkboards with gratitude question are in eight different locations throughout Alexandria to encourage the community to take a moment and reflect on what they are grateful for.

The Mindfulness Project is based on the community art project by New Orleans artist

Candy Chang and mindfulness guru Jon Kabat-Zinn's meditation activities. Chang inspired a worldwide participatory art activity that encouraged people to reflect on their lives and share what they wanted to accomplish before they die. Jon Kabat-Zinn founded the Mindfulness Meditation-Based Stress Reduction Intervention and describes the practice as "gentle, appreciative and nurturing."

Mindfulness is a meditation practice that focuses on awareness and the present moment. Mindfulness-based techniques have been shown to be effective in promoting well-being, improve emotional stress and decrease symptoms of anxiety. Gratitude is considered a mediator of mindfulness as a way of creating heartfulness. Unfortunately, one of the residuals of the COVID-19



**DAWN M. HIGGINS, PH.D.**

pandemic is the increase of anxiety, depression and isolation for many individuals. The hope of the Mindfulness Project's outcome is to help promote well-being in the various communities in the city.

Another purpose of the Mindfulness Project is to create awareness of the services available to seniors in Alexandria. Each chalkboard has a QR code that takes you to the website of the Alexandria Commission on Aging, Division of

Aging and Adult Services and Senior Services of Alexandria.

There, you will find the initiatives of the Commission on Aging that focus on seniors. Some of these initiatives involve ensuring that seniors are included in the discussion of major changes that occur within the city. The Division of Aging and Adult Services is our local area Agency on Aging; they provide a coordinated system of services for older Alexandrians that help inside and outside of the home. On Senior Services of Alexandria's website, you will find information on the different programs available to seniors, such as the Meals on Wheels delivery program and monthly events.

Check out the programs at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, Patrick Henry Recreation Center, Senior Services of Alexandria, the West End Goodwin House and Casa Chirilagua, as well as the resources and educational pro-



PHOTO/TARA WINSTEAD

Practice mindfulness.

grams at Ms. Moxie's Moon Shop. Don't forget to stop by Dolci Gelati in Old Town and Pat Miller's Neighborhood Square in Del Ray to reflect and share what you are grateful for today!

On April 18 at noon, the committee and staff will gather at Patrick Henry Recreation Center at 4643 Taney Ave. to note what we are grateful for. Feel free to join us to recognize this event.

*The writer is a licensed clinical social worker with more than 20 years of experience as a psychotherapist.*

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# In sickness and in health

BY SUSAN DOLTON

As we approach Mother's Day and a milestone in my own family – my mother's 90th birthday in August – I am compelled to share our family's journey through Alzheimer's disease. It has been a path fraught with love, loss and the resolute strength of one woman.

Nearly 30 years ago, our family faced a heartrending reality: My father, the rock of our family, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Like many who take the sacred vows of marriage, my parents promised to cherish each other in sickness and in health. True to her word and her vows, my mother devoted herself to my father's care, a journey that took a profound physical and emotional toll on her.

Over the course of four years of caring for our father in their home, the weight of caregiving began to overshadow her own health. At 65, complications from pneumonia nearly claimed her life – a wake-up call that resonated deeply within our hearts. This was a pivotal moment for our family.

We realized that to save one, we might lose another. It



**SUSAN  
DOLTON**

was then we decided to seek professional help, turning to organizations within our community specializing in the care of those with memory loss.

The decision to shift caregiving from their home to a specialized community was an arduous one, especially for my mother. The guilt and sense of relinquishment she felt was palpable; however, this transition brought an unexpected gift: a renewed lease on life for her and improved care for my father.

It underscored a crucial lesson: sometimes, loving someone means stepping back to let others step in and that seeking help does not imply failure. Rather, it is a testament to a caregiver and family member's strength and the depth of their love, ensuring that they remain healthy and active to continue

their roles as spouses, parents and friends.

In addition to experiencing this journey as a daughter, I have also experienced it as a professional serving in the field of senior living for 23 years. It's my observation that those families that can consider all the factors and the needs of family caregivers as well as the family member with the disease can find the deepest peace in their decision to relocate a loved one to a community with memory care expertise.

As they explore their options, I would encourage them to assess the following:

- Staff expertise with dementia and brain health
- Training programs for all staff – not just caregivers – in how to serve older adults with cognitive conditions
- Programming, such as music and art therapy which soothe anxiety, uplift spirits and enhance the quality of life for those with memory loss

Here in Alexandria and across Northern Virginia, there are many retirement communities that serve older adults with cognition conditions. At Goodwin Living, where I serve, we are fortunate to have three communities where expertise

and compassion meet to create an environment that respects the dignity of every resident, including a wide variety of programming supported through the Goodwin Living Foundation that is tailored to older adults with dementia.

As we prepare to gather for my mother's 90th birthday, I am reminded of the many years of life and love that were made possible by our decision to embrace community support. It is a vivid illustration that in our commitment to care for our loved ones, we must also care for ourselves. The journey of caregiving is not one to walk alone; it is a path best navigated with support that re-

spects the sacrifices made and provides the help deserved.

To all those who find themselves in the role of caregiver, know that your dedication is seen and deeply appreciated. Also remember there is strength in allowing others to share the load, to ensure you and those you love thrive together.

Here's to the health of our beloved caregivers and the continued vitality of those they so lovingly support.

*The writer is the director of sales at Goodwin Living and is the daughter of Beverly Howells, to whom this column is dedicated.*

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Start a garden this spring to grow your own produce.

## Steps to start growing produce at home

BY FAMILY FEATURES

Growing your own produce is an all-around smart practice, from the money you'll save at the grocery store to the contributions you can make toward a cleaner planet.

Maintaining a garden takes some effort, but it's a project even a beginner can tackle with ease. Consider these tips to start growing your at-home garden:

### Select a perfect spot

You'll want to place your garden in an area where you see it often so you're reminded to weed and care for it regularly. Find a flat area you can access easily, where erosion and other pitfalls – including hungry wildlife – won't be a problem.

### Choose between ground and containers

There are pros and cons to gardening in containers versus the ground, and there's no universal right choice. Rather, the best garden depends on your goals and preferences. A ground garden usually offers more space and may provide a better growth environment for roots. However, a con-

tainer garden is often easier to maintain and may be all you need if you wish to grow just a few plants.

### The importance of quality soil

You may think any dirt will do, but keep in mind the soil you plant in will be the primary source of nutrients for your produce. Not only that, but quality soil provides stability so plants can root firmly and grow healthy and sturdy to support their bounty. Quality soil also allows for ample drainage. Organic matter like compost, leaf mold or aged manure all help improve soil quality.

### Keep water close

Lugging water can quickly eliminate the pleasure of tending your garden, so be sure you're situated near a hose. You'll know it's time to water when the soil is dry about an inch below the surface.

### Plan for plenty of sun

A bright, sunny spot is a must since most vegetables, herbs and fruits depend on six or more hours of sun every day. Remember the sun's path changes throughout the year,

and as trees and foliage grow, they may produce more shade with each growing season.

### Consider what you'll grow

Starting with veggies you know you like is a smart starting point since you'll be pouring sweat equity into making them grow. Over time, you might add new varieties, but early on, keep your focus on foods you know you like so you can see a meaningful return and avoid waste. You'll also need to consider what you can grow to maturity within your area's growing season. If necessary, you might want to start transplants you can nurture indoors before moving them outside when the temperatures allow.

### Plant according to a calendar

Knowing how long it takes different foods to mature will help you create a planting calendar. You don't want to harvest everything at once, and if you stagger planting and replant what you can, you'll have a garden that produces food for your family for a longer period of time.



# Alexandria Celebrates Women

## The Eagle Lady: saving bald eagles



PHOTO/ELIZABETH HARTWELL MASON NECK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
Elizabeth Hartwell, also known as the 'Eagle Lady.'

BY GAYLE CONVERSE

At one location along the Mount Vernon Trail during the recent Alexandria Celebrates Women "Making History to D.C." Walk, I couldn't help but marvel at a pair of golden eagles circling overhead.

The duo is one of two varieties of the majestic bird found in the Commonwealth – the other, the symbol of our nation – the bald eagle.

According to the Center for Conservation Biology, the largest population of bald eagles, in what is now the continental United States, was once found in the Chesapeake Bay region. As development grew, the population declined. Some of the highest levels of DDT – an insecticide developed in the 1940s and banned in the 1970s – and other pesticides for any bald eagle population in the U.S were found in the food chain of Chesapeake birds in the 1970s.

Thanks to the efforts of one Fairfax County woman – in a time when women's voices largely went unheard – the numbers of bald eagles are again soaring.

Elizabeth van Laer Speer Hartwell, a 1950s "housewife"

and native Virginian, moved with her husband and two sons in 1960 to sparsely populated Mason Neck, Virginia. The boot-shaped peninsula lies approximately 13 miles south of Alexandria.

The land – documented by Captain John Smith in 1608 and originally referred to as Dogue's Neck after its Indigenous population – was formed by the Potomac River to the east, Pohick Bay on the north and Belmont Bay on the south in what is now southern Fairfax County. The area was renamed to honor the family of author of the 1776 Virginia Declaration of Rights, George Mason. The Masons owned nearby Gunston Hall.

The Hartwell's had relocated about the time a developer desired to build a 20,000 resident satellite city and airport on Mason Neck. In 1965, Hartwell discovered the plans for the new community, plus pending applications to use the land as a deep-sea port and for an outer beltway through the Great Marsh.

Hartwell knew the area's bald eagle habitat, other wildlife and natural beauty would be at risk should the proposed construction be approved.

Under the umbrella of the Mason Neck Conservation Committee and against additional odds – including increasing land values, strong protests from developers and several landowners – Hartwell and her colleagues rallied citizens and communicated their concerns to county, state and federal bureaucrats via letters, phone calls, personal office and site visits. In 1966, Hartwell bought a canoe to take conservationists, elected officials and journalists on trips into the far reaches of the Marsh. She often claimed, "I'm a born swamp rat."

Knowing that in 1960s Virginia women were still not immediately accepted, as she was often referred to as "that 'busybody' down on Mason Neck," Hartwell chose a man to publicly head the Mason Neck Conservation Committee – but she didn't stay behind the scenes very long.

Using the 1966 new federal Endangered Species Preservation Act, the rich colonial history of the peninsula and her enthusiasm and talents in communicating, strategizing and working both sides of the aisle, Hartwell's efforts resulted in the 1969 establishment of the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge – the first national haven created specifically for the protection of the bald eagle – and earned her the nickname, "The Eagle Lady." In 2006, Congress approved a name change in honor of Hartwell for the refuge. The following year, which marks 17 years this month, the Elizabeth Hartwell Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge was dedicated in her honor.

Today, the Refuge contains 2,276 acres and boasts the largest freshwater marsh in the region. Along with shel-

tering one of the largest flocks of Great Blue Heron, it is also one of the premiere locations in the country to see bald eagles, hosting approximately 30 eagles in summer to more than 60 in winter.

Hartwell's three decades of additional efforts resulted in permanent protection of more than 5,000 acres on Mason Neck. Today, more than 6,600 acres are protected. After moving to Alexandria, Hartwell continued to campaign for land

conservation until her death in 2000 at age 76. Like many of the feisty and fearless women of Virginia, "The Eagle Lady" rose to new heights – in this case, to protect our environment.

Like we marvel at the eagles overhead, we can marvel at the soaring accomplishments of Elizabeth Hartwell.

*The writer is a founder of Alexandria Celebrates Women, a nonprofit commemorating the centennial of women's suffrage and highlighting influential women throughout the city's history.*

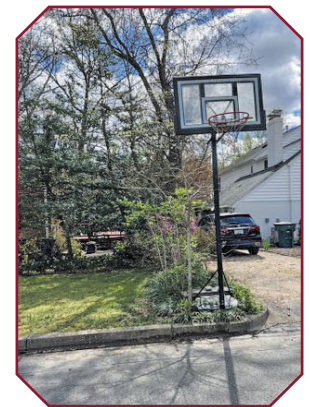


## For Sale At Auction

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# From 19th century to cutting-edge

## 91st annual Historic Home, Garden Tour features 1815 home

BY KIM DAVIS

A few blocks west of the Potomac River in the 200 block of North Fairfax Street stands a remarkable home constructed in 1815 by Thomas Cruse, a distiller of Irish whiskey. Little is known of Cruse, but he undoubtedly would be pleased with the beautiful bespoke renovations recently completed by the current property owners.

On April 20, history buffs and tour goers alike will be privy to 213 North Fairfax St. in addition to five other centuries-old properties in Old Town, many of which have been lovingly renovated as envisioned by a new generation during the celebrated 91st annual Garden Club of Virginia's Historic Home and Garden Tour.

The additional four properties that are available for tours will be 410 South Fairfax St., 417 South Fairfax St., 513 Queen St. and 611 Queen St.

The property, like others throughout the city, has a rich history of ownership and updates. Eighteen years after Cruse occupied the property, it was sold to Robert Jamieson, who added an adjoining lot to the north. In 1851, Jamieson bought yet another lot to the north and constructed what today is neighboring 215 South Fairfax St. His son inherited both houses in 1863 and sold them 10 years later to Frank Corbett, who subdivided the properties in 1882, which currently remains under separate ownership.

When the current owners acquired the home in 2016, they envisioned a top-to-bottom renovation that would bring this grand lady into the 21st century, incorporating state of the art technology, tasteful design and exquisite materials, resulting in 6,000



PHOTOS/KIM DAVIS

Renovations have transformed this 19th century home into a modern gem.

square feet of meticulously restored living space.

The couple worked with an accomplished team of professionals to create a beautifully updated showplace: A stunning new kitchen addition, styled with banks of classic walnut cabinetry, is paired with a sophisticated backsplash of striking Persian green and white marble, subzero refrigerators and Thermador ovens to create a stylish space. Numerous rooms contain discrete built-in cooler drawers providing easy access to beverage and snack options. A sitting room between the kitchen and living room features custom cabinetry lacquered in teal blue with gold handles.

The new kitchen addition overlooks a walled patio featuring a half-moon black fountain and beautiful garden plantings. Adjacent Thompson's Alley, which provides owner parking, was cleared of debris, weeds and moss, and each cobblestone reset by hand.

Damaged historic windows, staircases, railings, mantels and woodwork were professionally sanded and refinished to pristine condition. No space was untouched as artisans created storage drawers and closets for every available nook and cranny.

The entire home is fully automated with a total of 24 heating and air conditioning zones with much of the flooring heated. Touch panels are conveniently located throughout the home providing state of the art technology access throughout, including settings for privacy, security, television and streaming apps, whole house audio, whole house video intercom, heating and cooling.

A lovely second floor master suite is filled with natural light. Adjoining his-and-her custom closets, a large bath and dressing room provide ample space for the couple. A cus-

tom shower doubles as a steam room and a luxurious bathtub overlooks the Potomac River. Two additional levels provide lovely bedrooms and baths for children and guests.

The owners – who've requested anonymity – excavated the basement to make room for a children's play area, outdoor fireplace and entertaining. A wine cellar will soon be installed.

"We put a lot of thought into the renovations," the owner said. "It is a wonderful house in a superb location, and we anticipate enjoying it for years to come. As custodians of this home, we wanted to preserve the history and discreetly introduce modern amenities into the home."

The Garden Club of Virginia's Old Town Historic Garden Week Tour kicks off a week-long tour showcasing a carefully curated selection of our state's most gracious historic homes and gardens. Expertly updated, tastefully furnished and filled with spectacular floral arrangements designed by blue ribbon garden club members, each property features lovely gardens filled with bountiful Spring flowers timed to bloom in concert with the tour.

Tickets include admission to five private Old Town homes and gardens, Lee-Fendall House Museum and Gardens and six nearby public properties, including Mount Vernon, River Farm, Carlyle House, Gunston Hall and Green Spring Gardens. Advance tickets are \$55 online at [vagardenweek.org](http://vagardenweek.org) and may be purchased day-of at the Alexandria Visitor's Center located at 221 King St. The tour is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event also includes a special pop-up Marketplace Boutique located in the Athenaeum at 201 Prince St. The boutique features a curated collection of beautiful clothing, gifts and jewelry. Offerings



## HISTORIC HOMES FROM | 40

include soft cashmere scarves, linen dresses and Scottish woven sweaters by Heidi Wynne; elegant personalized stationery, invitations and gifts from Georgetown Paperie; exquisitely handmade, timeless designs by Deo duPont Jewelry; hand painted art featuring flowers and animals by the talented and gifted artist Virginia Donelson; a beautiful selection of children's clothing, toys and personalized gifts from Old Town's Monday's Child boutique; Indo-Chic women's classic silk blouses, jackets and skirts; Sarah Bray Bermuda Hats made of sea grass and palm leaf, adorned with beautiful vintage floral and gros-grain ribbon; A Shirt Story offering preloved, 100% cotton men's oxford shirts reworked for women; and an extensive inventory of stunning peony bulbs from Peony's Envy. The Marketplace is open from 9:30



An elegant sitting room with gorgeous green cabinetry and an ornate rug.



PHOTOS/KIM DAVIS

a.m. to 4 p.m.

Refreshments will be available for tour goers throughout the day at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 228 South Pitt St. from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the historic church will be open for touring.

The Garden Club of Virginia's eight-day statewide tour from April 20 to 27 in-

cludes 170 private properties throughout Virginia, including stately manors, renovated farmhouses, private homes and waterfront villas. Proceeds fund restoration and preservation of nearly 50 Virginia historic public gardens. The annual event also funds a historic landscape research fellowship program that is building

a comprehensive library documenting the Commonwealth's important gardens and landscapes. The tour was the brainchild of a group of women with a love of gardens in 1929.

The Old Town tour is hosted by the GCV's two local garden clubs, Hunting Creek Garden Club and the Garden Club of Alexandria. For more infor-

mation, visit [vagardenweek.org](http://vagardenweek.org) online, @historicgardensweekoldtownalexandria on Facebook or @historicgardensweekoldtown on Instagram.

*The writer is a member of the Hunting Creek Garden Club and formerly served as both president and vice president of the club.*

## HOME OF THE WEEK



PHOTOS/KATE WICHLINSKI

**Left:** The exterior is modern and refreshing. **Middle:** The open concept chef's kitchen and dining. **Right:** The bedrooms boast natural light.

# Modern inspiration and stunning design

Welcome to 1505 Russell Road in the heart of the highly sought after Del Ray neighborhood! This modern and meticulously renovated home spans 3,603 square feet, offering ample indoor and outdoor living space. The newly renovated kitchen is a chef's dream, complete with state-of-the-art appliances, an

eat-in kitchen, breakfast bar and a newly added coffee nook and wine grotto. The new white oak hardwood flooring throughout reflects the natural light beautifully and creates a seamless flow from room to room. A formal dining room featuring French doors to a private balcony, two spacious living rooms – each with

a wood-burning fireplace – an expansive outdoor living area of the rear living room and the most incredible primary suite complete with walk-in closet, a dual-vanity ensuite and large sitting room.

Additional highlights include built-ins, recessed lighting, a home office, a dog wash station, loads of storage, a fully

outfitted gym that's perfect for fitness enthusiasts, a shed for yard gadgets and a large one-car garage with an electric vehicle charger.

With its walkability and peaceful surroundings, this home truly caters to a perfect blend of contemporary living, style, comfort and functionality!

## AT A GLANCE

**Address:** 1505 Russell Road, Alexandria, 22301

**Neighborhood:** Del Ray

**Price:** \$1,695,000

**Square feet:** 3,603

**Bedrooms:** 3

**Bathrooms:** 3.5

**Year built:** 1930

**Contact:** Caitlin Kamerman

[caitlin.kamerman@compass.com](mailto:caitlin.kamerman@compass.com)

269-492-2453

Instagram: @closewithcait



## Editorial

## It all begins with safety

Anyone who has loved a child has to be profoundly shaken by the story about an autistic 4-year-old little girl who somehow wandered out of Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 IB school last month and was found by a bus driver a half mile away.

The incident, which happened on March 19, came to the public's attention only after D.C. News Now broke the story on April 5.

Alexandria City Public Schools did not respond to D.C. News Now's requests for comment, nor did ACPS issue a public statement about the incident until four days after the story broke in the media. On April 9, Superintendent Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., said in a letter to Jefferson-Houston parents that "several employees, including administrative staff, have been placed on administrative leave this week."

In our page 1 story, "ACPS admins placed on leave," for which ACPS also declined to comment, a parent said a lack of resources for special education students at Jefferson-Houston is a long-standing problem that ACPS has not addressed over a number of years.

"There are not enough resources to make sure that these kids are taught in the way that they need to be taught, with the resources they need to be safe," the parent, who requested anonymity to talk candidly for this story, said in the story.

There are multiple takeaways from this situation.

The first is, quite obviously, that this simply can't happen – ever. And yet it did.

The second is a series of questions.

- Why did it take Kay-Wyatt three weeks to issue the April 9 letter to parents?

- Did it really take her that long to make the decision that top leadership at Jefferson-Houston should be placed on administrative leave and an investigation be launched?

- Was it business-as-usual for three full weeks before this decision was announced?

- Were the superintendent and School Board even aware of the incident in real time?

- Would anyone have been held accountable at all if D.C. News Now hadn't broken the story on April 5?

The third is empathy.

It's really difficult to run a school, particularly public schools that are required to accommodate students at all ability levels with a range of disabilities. Nothing can excuse what happened to little Riley and her frantic mother on March 19, and everyone involved is fortunate that Riley was found, unharmed. But this situation was an accident, not a malicious act on anyone's part.

The fourth is puzzlement.

If, as the Jefferson-Houston parent told the Times, understaffing and inadequate resources for special needs children have been long-standing problems at that school, it's difficult to understand how this wouldn't have been addressed at some point in the last seven years.

What Kay-Wyatt, her team and the Alexandria School Board – who Kay-Wyatt reports to – must figure out is what steps are necessary to ensure that this never happens again.

Once again, ACPS reacted by circling the wagons when something potentially tragic happened in a school, rather than being forthcoming from the start. Incidents like this eventually tend to come to light – and the optics of appearing to cover them up make everyone look worse in the end.

## Opinion

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

- Thomas Jefferson

## Photo of the Week



A redbud tree in full bloom on South Pitt Street.

PHOTO/DENISE DUNBAR

## Letters

## Budget amendment threatens support for abused children

To the editor:

Gov. Glenn Youngkin's Budget Amendment #139 poses a dire threat to the existence of Children's Advocacy Centers across Virginia – including the Center for Alexandria's Children. This amendment, slashing funding intended to replace disappearing Federal Victims of Crime Act funding, is a blow to the most vulnerable among us and must be rejected.

Since 2007, The Center for Alexandria's Children has been the leading intervention organization in managing the reported average of 1,200 child abuse cases in Alexandria. With these devastating cuts, our Children's Advocacy Center program is at risk. This funding is vital to ensuring that children who have been impacted

by abuse have access to specialized, trauma-informed services locally.

This amendment reduces H.B. 30 allocations by staggering amounts: \$564,902 in year one and \$2,912,156 in year two. These funds are not frivolous expenditures: They are a lifeline for CACs struggling to cope with the disappearance of VOCA funding. By fiscal year 2026, VOCA funding is set to vanish completely, leaving CACs in financial peril. Trauma-informed mental health services, forensic interviews and victim and family support all hang in the balance.

Item 331 #3c of enrolled bill H.B. 30 initially

SEE **PELAEZ**

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## Letters

## Housing, a serious concern

To the editor:

I am a wife and stay-at-home mother of two. Housing is a serious concern for my family and my community.

In 2017, we lived in a two-bedroom apartment in the West End. Our rent increased from \$1,480 to \$1,980 within a year. Struggling financially, we moved to a one-bedroom in Chirilagua for \$1,400. We were at peace for three years, until the rent increased to \$1,680.

It saddens me that we barely see my husband because he works so much for us to have a home. I'd like to help with a job, but daycare costs are so high that my paycheck

wouldn't make a difference.

City Council must help families by allocating \$10 million for a local voucher program for households earning 40% of the area median income and below, and \$10 million to expand ARISE, the guaranteed income pilot program.

Last year, we moved again. Our two-bedroom in the West End now costs \$2,120. Families like mine are frustrated with rent hikes and worried about losing our homes. Local investments would help families like mine have financial stability. We hope City Council will take action.

-Yessy Gonzales,  
Alexandria

PELAEZ

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included funding to replace these lost funds, but the governor's cuts eviscerate these provisions, leaving CACs with a mere \$2 million over the next biennium to cover losses of \$5,477,158. This drastic reduction jeopardizes the ability of CACs to provide crucial services for abused children and their families. Without adequate funding, CACs like ours will be forced to shutter their doors, leaving a gaping hole in the safety net for vulnerable children.

The consequences of these cuts are profound. With child and family visits on the rise, CACs play an essential role in providing support and advocacy for victims of abuse. Currently, 28 CACs or satellite facilities serve more than 7,000 children and their families, a number expected to soar to nearly 10,000 if current trends persist.

The impact of these cuts extends far beyond mere numbers on a budget spreadsheet. As many as eight CACs, including the Center for Alexandria's Children, may be forced

to close entirely, depriving countless children of crucial services. For the remaining CACs, severe cutbacks in services are inevitable.

Furthermore, these cuts hamstring efforts to expand services to reach the approximately 20% of Virginia children and families who currently lack access to a CAC. At a time when the need for these services is greater than ever, slashing funding is not just short-sighted; it's unconscionable.

We cannot afford to turn a blind eye to the plight of abused children and their families. The amount of these cuts is a drop in the bucket in the grand scheme of the budget but constitute a lifeline for CACs.

We call on lawmakers across Virginia to stand up for abused children and reject Governor's Budget Amendment #139. The future of CACs – and the innocent lives they protect – hangs in the balance.

-Giselle L. Pelaez,  
executive director,  
Center for  
Alexandria's Children

## Commentary

## Why I'm running for Council

BY CHARLOTTE SCHERER

My great-grandmother once told me, "The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts." It's funny how such simple advice can change your life.

As I worked my way through law school and studied for the bar, her wisdom kept me grounded, reminding me of what matters – how a life is best lived, in service to others. I stayed true to that throughout my legal career – first as a devoted advocate for children as an attorney ad litem, then in the courtroom as assistant public defender, and eventually being sworn in as a magistrate for this city.

I worked many late nights because I knew people depended on what I did.

In my 13 years as an Alexandrian, I have always sought to engage with others. I ran voter registration drives and eventually became a precinct captain for the Alexandria Democratic Committee.

I also served on two community boards, each with a distinct purpose: the Alexandria Commission for Women and the Community Criminal Justice Board. It was on the former where I passionately advocated for women's reproductive rights and on the latter that ultimately led me to my decision to become a magistrate, signing emergency protective orders at 3 a.m. and working closely with law enforcement to keep our city safe.

I believe that understanding begins with listening.

In the courtroom, I learned that true advocacy begins with asking thoughtful questions and allowing everyone, even the quietest voices, to express themselves without judgment. As I aim to walk every part of our diverse city, I want to keep the focus where it belongs – on the issues that matter most to you. Here's how.

Every Alexandrian should enjoy the highest quality of life. Instead of promoting uni-

form density, we should target smart growth. We should direct growth towards our regional transit hubs by building sustainably in Metro-adjacent locations to reduce traffic on streets. We should also work to preserve permeable green space and open areas in residential neighborhoods to protect our neighborhoods from flooding.

And while no neighborhood is exempt from change, we should work to preserve our historical areas from overdevelopment that threatens what makes them irreplaceable. Taking a pass on the arena project was the best thing to do.

Improving educational excellence is a top priority of mine.

This means focusing on school construction to sustain enrollment numbers but also prioritizing teacher recruitment and retention. That's why I want to establish a comprehensive merit bonus system designed to acknowledge and reward outstanding educators in Alexandria's schools. But it also means committing to a capital improvement plan that expands and modernizes educational facilities and the creation of healthy learning environments. Let's fully fund Alexandria City Public Schools so that our students can thrive.

And let's get traffic on our city streets moving again.

That means significantly enhancing capital investments in the maintenance and improvement of local road networks to ensure they remain smoothly paved and safe for all users. Let's increase funding for the resurfacing, repairing, and preventive maintenance of streets and highways where we can, addressing potholes and wear-and-tear proactively.

By enhancing the quantity and standard of off-street connections and employing smart traffic signals, we can save lives and reduce traffic congestion at the same time.



CHARLOTTE  
SCHERER

*The writer is running in the June 18 Democratic primary for City Council.*

“ We should work to preserve our historical areas from overdevelopment that threatens what makes them irreplaceable. Taking a pass on the arena project was the best thing to do.”

- Charlotte Scherer,  
candidate for Alexandria City Council



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# Stepping up by stepping into the past

White words on purple yard signs posted across Old Town cry out “Home, Allegation, Arrest, Lynched.” Each a call to explore a site, a concrete contemporary place that bore witness to a moment in this city’s past when civility crumbled and fear and hate triumphed.

On April 23, 1897, 127 years ago, an 18-year-old Black Alexandrian was pulled from a jail cell by a mob and lynched on Lee Street. As part of this year’s Joseph McCoy Remembrance, 13 locations have been marked to honor the lost life of Joseph McCoy.

Drive, walk, or bike this route through April 24 to follow the Remembrance Walk. Using QR codes on the signs or a booklet – available at the Alexandria Black History Museum, Freedom House Museum, Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum and the Alexandria Visitors Center – explore the events that unfolded on April 22 and 23, 1897.

By walking the streets and noting the locations where Joseph McCoy lived, worked and was likely arrested, we remember and acknowledge Alexandria’s history of racial terror. After touring the historic Black neighborhood known as the Bottoms, travel to Market Square to the original police station location where Joseph first learned about the charges he faced – which he denied –



PHOTO/OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA

One of the signs from the Remembrance Walk that is part of the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project.

before eventually confessing.

The young Black man twice

experienced intense fear as

an enraged white mob came after

him with murderous intent. Continue to the lynching location, which is marked special for this remembrance. Then travel up King Street to a former location of Demaine Funeral Home to read about the verdict of the Coroner’s Inquiry. Spoiler alert: no one was held accountable.

Finally, head to Penny Hill Cemetery where the city paid to bury McCoy after his Aunt Rachel, who raised him, refused to accept his broken body. Her protest, similar to that of a future Mamie Till-Mobley, mother of Emmett Till, who would show the world what white supremacy looked like.

This special Remembrance Walk is one of several opportunities to acknowledge injustices from Alexandria’s past, while working toward creating a more inclusive community. On April 23, the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project, Roberts Memorial United Methodist Church and city officials will hold a wreath laying ceremony for Joseph McCoy at Penny Hill Cemetery at 5 p.m.

For more information and to sign up for the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project newsletter, visit [Alexandriava.gov/Historic](http://Alexandriava.gov/Historic).

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

## Weekly Poll

### Last Week

**Do you plan to visit the new waterfront art exhibit, *Interstellar Influencer*, that will be in place until November?**

**55% Yes, I check out each installation.**

**18% No, I don’t go to the waterfront.**

**16% What are you talking about?**

**11% Not sure, but I’ve seen some others.**

### This Week

*Take the poll at [alextimes.com](http://alextimes.com)*

**The Del Ray Civic Association held a forum for mayoral candidates running in the Democratic Primary during its April 10 meeting. Did you attend that meeting and do you plan to attend any other local candidate forums?**

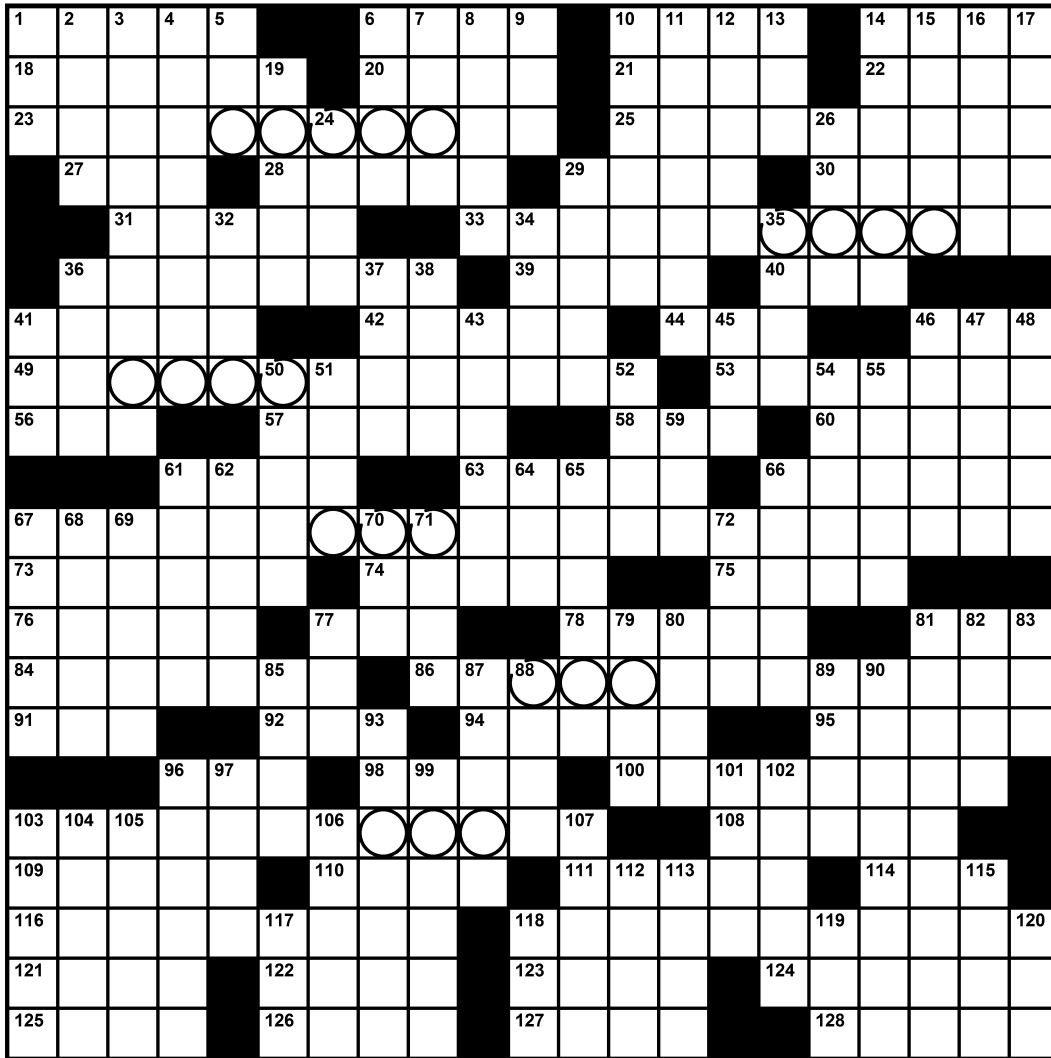
**A) I attended the April 10 session and plan to attend others.**

**B) I didn’t attend it, but will attend others.**

**C) I didn’t attend April 10 and have no plans to attend others.**



# Weekly Words



## ALL DECKED OUT by Paul Coulter, edited by Jeff Chen

### ACROSS

- 1 Last word in a famed mausoleum's name
- 6 \_\_\_ facto (logician's statement)
- 10 Venmo alternative
- 14 Fivers, in slang
- 18 Origami birds
- 20 Cat call
- 21 Big name on beauty boxes
- 22 Ornate Tiffany creation
- 23 \*Continue granting loans? (+8)
- 25 "The Maltese Falcon" leading lady
- 27 Spam and such
- 28 Antlered creature
- 29 Speedy feline seen on some shoes
- 30 Neighbor of the Dominican Republic
- 31 In a lather?
- 33 \*Cowardly Martian? (+J)
- 36 "Let's do it!"
- 39 Zeroed out a debt
- 40 Don't waste
- 41 "I love you," in Lima
- 42 St. Paul-to-Fargo rte.
- 44 H, to the Hellenes
- 46 Back then
- 49 \*Nanny's warning? (+K)
- 53 Brandy glass
- 56 Boiling feeling

- 57 Test for purity
- 58 Response to a goo that isn't cute
- 60 Desist's redundant partner
- 61 Wrinkly type of tangelo
- 63 Fanatical fan
- 66 Unload on
- 67 \*Le bon ami? (+A)
- 73 Baltimore birds
- 74 Mince words?
- 75 "Doggone it!"
- 76 Bouncer's task
- 77 It's a good thing to break
- 78 Pester, puppy-style
- 81 Payoff
- 84 Has every intention of
- 86 \*"I'll give you a belly rub soon"? (+10)
- 91 Identity theft fig.
- 92 Do poorly
- 94 Martina's court rival
- 95 Right hands
- 96 What a pitcher might ice
- 98 On the subject of
- 100 Some QB six-pointers
- 103 \*Noah's ship as it transports the Wise Men? (+2)
- 108 Impatient
- 109 College grads, for short
- 110 Lowly laborer
- 111 Goes on
- 114 Home of the tallest

- bldg. in the world
  - 116 Approach furtively
  - 118 Request to a poker dealer ... and a hint for making 23-, 33-, 49-, 67-, 86- and 103-Across match their clues
  - 121 Possum pal of Porky Pine
  - 122 Sharp rebuke
  - 123 "\_\_\_, Brute?"
  - 124 Firefighter's extendable equipment
  - 125 Brood
  - 126 Does a trick for a treat
  - 127 Detective's need
  - 128 Question type
- ### DOWN
- 1 Often-injured knee component, for short
  - 2 Field of study
  - 3 Act of agreement
  - 4 "Me, too!"
  - 5 Author Harper
  - 6 Texter's qualifier
  - 7 Concern for vets
  - 8 Call to a pig
  - 9 Personal
  - 10 Some clouds
  - 11 Apple pie order?
  - 12 Scarecrow stuffing
  - 13 Cow fodder
  - 14 \_\_\_-Lorraine (French region)

- 15 It can be dyed in the wool
- 16 Ham it up
- 17 Nautical pole
- 19 Easy marks for a con man
- 24 "Naked Maja" artist
- 26 Cries of discovery
- 29 First course of action
- 32 Heaps and heaps
- 34 Fencing event
- 35 Evita's husband
- 36 Rip open
- 37 Fortitude
- 38 DOL division
- 41 "OMG, spare me!"
- 43 Attempt to obtain
- 45 "Shame on you!"
- 46 The least bit
- 47 "Beau \_\_\_" (classic novel)
- 48 Cookies that come in many varieties
- 50 Rubs the wrong way, to say the least
- 51 Java is in it
- 52 Food sticker?
- 54 Sew up
- 55 Brings down
- 59 Burnable data-storage medium, for short
- 61 Philly Ivy
- 62 Some underworld groups
- 64 Contingencies
- 65 Leveling device
- 66 Cook quickly, as mushrooms
- 67 Cuts back, as a hedge

- 68 Hot spot?
- 69 Perrier competitor
- 70 Many an IRS employee
- 71 Tombstone name
- 72 Flip out
- 77 Polynesian paste
- 79 Still competitive
- 80 Concern for vets
- 81 Garden spots
- 82 Low digits
- 83 Mild movie ratings
- 85 Highland hats
- 87 Follow, as a tip
- 88 Owner of the hammer Mjolnir
- 89 Democratic donkey cartoonist
- 90 Deter or discourage
- 93 Reason for a "Safe!" call
- 96 Don't shoot for the stars
- 97 Scam
- 99 Dives like an eagle
- 101 Way to go!
- 102 Shooter Adams
- 103 Short pants?
- 104 "Silas Marner" novelist
- 105 Elbow
- 106 Mac maker
- 107 1971 Fonda film
- 112 "\_\_\_ boy!"
- 113 Formal accessory
- 115 Biblical plot?
- 117 Common port type
- 118 Dopey drawing, perhaps
- 119 Coral isle
- 120 Outstripping capacity, briefly

## DEATH NOTICES

**MASON TRAE EISKANT** (19), of Alexandria, April 8, 2024

**MARION ELAINE MOON** (82), of Alexandria, April 1, 2024

**KATHLEEN THERESA NEVINS** (91), formerly of Alexandria, April 5, 2024

**KADEN LEE OLSEN** (23), of Alexandria, April 9, 2024

### Solutions from last week





# Classifieds

## LEGAL NOTICE



### ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION & CITY COUNCIL MAY 2024

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

#### ALEXANDRIA PLAN-

**NING COMMISSION**  
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024  
7:00 PM, CITY HALL  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER  
301 KING STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

**ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL**  
SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024  
9:30 AM, CITY HALL  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER  
301 KING STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

A Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, on the second floor, Room 2400, 301 King Street. It will be followed by a City Council Public Hearing on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in City Council Chambers, on the second floor, Room 2400, 301 King Street. The hearings can also be viewed by the public through the live broadcast on the government Channel 70 and streaming on the City's website. Remote

participation is available via Zoom by registering to attend the hearings via the following registration links:

Planning Commission (Public Hearing Webinar)

The Webinar will open at 6:30 p.m. to allow individuals to join. The Planning Commission Public Hearing will begin at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Registration Link: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_5anNkRm7TW2VTXUWA9ShRg](https://zoom.us/join/https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5anNkRm7TW2VTXUWA9ShRg)

Zoom Audio Conference:  
Dial-in: 301-715-8592  
Webinar ID: 933 5530 4719  
Password: 452867

City Council (Public Hearing Webinar)

Registration Link: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_4jSnaCnwSliHsfuTcZifSQ](https://zoom.us/join/https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4jSnaCnwSliHsfuTcZifSQ)

Zoom Audio Conference:  
Dial-in number: 301-715-8592  
Webinar ID: 973 1829 7597  
Webinar Passcode: 329918

If you use the Zoom Webinar application, please be sure you have updated the application to the latest version for the best results. If you are unable to access the Zoom Webinars, please use the Dial-In number to access the hearings. Public comment will be received at the hearings. The public may also submit comments in advance to Department of Planning & Zoning staff at [PlanComm@alexandriavirginia.gov](mailto:PlanComm@alexandriavirginia.gov) or make public comments on the day of the Planning Commission Public Hearing. For the City Council Public Hearing, the public may submit comments to the City Clerk at 703-746-4550, at [CouncilComment@alexandriavirginia.gov](mailto:CouncilComment@alexandriavirginia.gov) or make comments on the day of the City Council Public Hearing.

For reasonable disability accommodation for the Planning Commission Public Hearing, contact Lisa Chase at [alicia.chase@alexandriavirginia.gov](mailto:alicia.chase@alexandriavirginia.gov) or 703.746.4666, Virginia Relay 711. We request that you provide a 48-hour notice so that the proper arrangements may be made. For the City Council

Public Hearing, individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in the City Council Public Hearing may call the City Clerk and Clerk of Council's Office at 703-746-4550 (TTY/TDD 838-5056).

Public Hearing and consideration of a request for the Planning Commission to adopt a resolution to set its FY2025 meeting schedule and establish continuation dates for meetings. Staff: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning & Zoning

Zoning Text Amendment #2024-00004  
(A) Initiation of a Text Amendment and (B) Public Hearing and consideration of a Text Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to amend Section 11-207 Civil Violations. Staff: City of Alexandria, Department of Planning & Zoning

Street Naming Case #2024-00002 Landmark Overlook  
5901 Stevenson Avenue  
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for the approval of seven new Street Names located in Landmark Overlook at 5901 Stevenson Avenue; zoned CRMU-H/Commercial Residential Mixed-Use (High). Applicant: Hekemian and Co., Inc., represented by Kenneth W. Wire, attorney

Street Naming Case #2024-00001 Upland Park  
5165 Seminary Road  
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for the approval of two new Street Names located in Upland Park at 5165 Seminary Road; zoned CDD#21/Coordinated Development District #21. Applicant: Hekemian and Co., Inc., represented by Kenneth W. Wire, attorney

Special Use Permit #2023-00044  
80 S. Early Street  
Public Hearing and consideration of a Special Use Permit for three temporary trailers; zoned I/Industrial. Applicant: David Donnelly

Special Use Permit #2024-00011  
4601 Eisenhower Avenue  
Public Hearing and consideration of a Special Use Permit to (1) allow various administrative special,

special, and noncomplying uses at an industrial center, and (2) to increase the square footage for non-complying uses; zoned: OCM(100)/Office Commercial Medium. Applicant: Boundary Investments, LLC, represented by Robert Brant, attorney

Special Use Permit #2024-00009  
4320 Seminary Road  
Public Hearing and consideration of a Special Use Permit for a temporary trailer; zoned RB/Townhouse. Applicant: Inova Health Services, represented by M. Catharine Puskar, attorney

Special Use Permit #2024-00024  
5990 Duke Street  
Public Hearing and consideration of a Special Use Permit for the expansion of a noncomplying automobile sales and repair use and for a change of ownership; zoned CRMU-M/Commercial residential mixed use (medium). Applicant: Passport Auto Group, represented by Duncan W. Blair, attorney

Rezoning #2024-00001  
709 & 711 Pendleton Street  
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for an amendment to the official Zoning Map to rezone the subject properties from CL/Commercial low with proffer to CL/Commercial low. Applicant: Sevda Tahiri, Shi Hailing, and Jiangling Wang

**ZONING ORDINANCE SUBDIVISION CASES ARE HEARD BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION, PLACED ON THE CITY COUNCIL DOCKET FOR INFORMATION, AND HEARD BY CITY COUNCIL ONLY UPON APPEAL.**

Subdivision #2024-00002  
209 and 211 East Del Ray Avenue  
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Subdivision to re-subdivide two existing lots; zoned R-2-5/Residential. Applicants: Angela Ambrose and Windmill Hill LLC

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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ORDER OF PUBLICATION  
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
VA. CODE §§ 1-211.1; 8-01-316, -317, 20-104

Case No. CJ23000030-00

Augusta Circuit Court

1 East Johnson Street, Staunton VA 24401  
ADDRESS OF COURT

Commonwealth of Virginia, in re

Brandi Renee Campbell v. William Montam Paffenbarger  
9611 Sacramento Dr, Apt C, Alexandria VA 1522 Middlebrook Village Road, Middlebrook VA

The object of this suit is to:

It is ORDERED that Brandi Renee Campbell  
appear at the above-named court and protect his/her interests on or before June 3, 2024 at 1pm.

3/26/2024  
DATE

[Signature]  
JUDGE [ ] CLERK

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION A True and Correct Copy,

I certify that a certified copy of this Order was:

- mailed to the defendant
- posted
  - at courthouse
  - on local public government website
  - on the website of the circuit court clerk
- provided to NEWSPAPER on \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

Teste: [Signature]  
Circuit Court  
County of Augusta, Virginia  
Clerk

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ DEPUTY CLERK



# Classifieds

to collocate wireless communications antennas at a centerline height of 41 feet on an 87-foot building at the approx. vicinity of 105 North Union Street, Alexandria, City of Alexandria, VA 22314. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Katelyn Belzner, k.belzner@trileaf.com, 8600 LaSalle Road Ste. 301, Towson, MD 21286, 410-853-7128.

## LEGAL NOTICE



### Board of Architectural Review LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held by the Board of Architectural Review on Thursday, May 2, 2024 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, room 2400, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 on the following applications:

BAR#2024-00128 OHAD  
Request for alterations at 605 Franklin Street  
Applicant: Higher Power Electrical Services

BAR#2023-00074 OHAD  
Request for addition and alterations at 333 Green Street  
Applicant: Paul O'Sullivan

BAR#2023-00083 OHAD  
Request for partial demolition/encapsulation at 333 Green Street  
Applicant: Paul O'Sullivan

BAR#2024-00112 OHAD  
Request for addition and alterations at 1404 King Street  
Applicant: Richard Kelly/  
HTC Property Management

BAR#2024-00118 OHAD  
Request for partial demolition/encapsulation at 1404 King Street  
Applicant: Richard Kelly/  
HTC Property Management

BAR#2024-00130 OHAD  
Request for alterations at 200 S Fairfax Street, Unit 12  
Applicant: Higher Power

## Electrical Services

BAR#2024-00132 OHAD  
Request for partial demolition/encapsulation at 217 N Columbus Street  
Applicant: Cathleen Curtin Architects LLC

BAR#2024-00139 OHAD  
Request for partial demolition/encapsulation at 407 S Lee Street  
Applicant: Karen & William Conkey

BAR#2024-00140 OHAD  
Request for partial demolition/encapsulation at 217 S Columbus Street  
Applicant: Catherine Van Way

BAR#2024-00141 OHAD  
Request for alterations at 551 Bashford Lane  
Applicant: Harbor Terrace of Old Town Condominium Unit Owners Association

The Board will receive a status update on the proposed updates to chapters of the Design Guidelines in the Parker-Gray Historic District.

Public comments will be received at the Public Hearing. The public may submit comments in advance to Molly Lambert at molly.lambert@alexandriava.gov or make public comments on the day of the Public Hearing.

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Alicia.Chase@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.3810, Virginia Relay 711. If you prefer communication in another language, free interpretation and translation services are available to you. Please email

LanguageAccess@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.3960.

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

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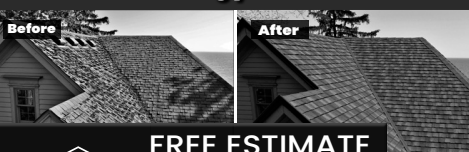
## FOR SALE

Two gravesites w/ vaults for sale. "Lilac" section of National Memorial Park Cemetery, Falls Church, VA. Current total price for both \$8,995. Sale price \$4,995. Call 703-431-9106 or paphipps@plexar.net

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**AUCTION** Friday, May 3, 12:30pm  
at the Floyd EcoVillage,  
188 EcoVillage Trl, Floyd, VA

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