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APRIL 9, 2020

Finding Faith Vital religious observances go virtual.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

With stay-at-home orders in place across the state, some of the world's most sacred celebrations of faith will move online. Jewish seder meals will be conducted via Zoom, Christian Holy Week services will be live streamed and many Muslims will break their daily Ramadan fasts alone.

"Wednesday night I will conduct both the smallest and largest seder of my life," said Jack Moline, Agudus Achim Congregation Rabbi Emeritus. "Generally, we have 30 or so people at our table. Tomorrow it will be two – just my wife and myself. But we will have 100 people participating by Zoom."

The Jewish observance of Passover takes place this year

from April 8-16. Celebrating the escape of Jews from slavery in Egypt, rituals like the Passover seder, a special ceremony and meals with family and friends will go virtual. "This is a time when people usually gather and enjoy each other's company," Moline said. "But that won't happen this year. The holiday continues through the middle of next week so families will have to find ways to continue the observance at home."

Agudus Achim Congregation has been conducting virtual Shabbat services and a rabbi and cantor are holding services each day over Zoom. "We are serving our community with innovative care and creative compassion," said Rabbi Steven Rein.

For Christians, Holy Week usually culminates with an Easter Sunday celebration that sees many churches overflowing with standing-room only crowds.

"Our churches may be closed but



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Elijah's Cup, candlesticks to be lit and matzah are part of the traditional.

Christ is not quarantined and his gospel is not in chains," said Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in his Holy Week message.

Easter this year falls on April 12

and many Alexandria churches, including St. Mary's Basilica, St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Alfred Street Baptist Church, are conducting live prayer services, Catholic Mass and bible studies online.

Some churches, like Washington Street United Methodist Church, conduct live services online and also post recordings on YouTube. At the end of the month, Ramadan will take place from April 25-May 25. The Muslim holiday involves fasting from sunrise to sunset each day for 30 days. Breaking the fast usually involves communal meals with extended family and friends. With the current ban of gatherings of more than 10 people, many mosques will stream daily prayers and lectures online. Despite the nationwide directive on social distancing that is forcing places of worship and communities to adjust, Moline said that this is still a time of hope. "No doubt this is a difficult time for people," Moline said. "But the message of liberation, the resurrection for Easter and Ramadan – all of those are signs of hope this time of year."

Budget 2.0 No property tax increase; capital projects delayed; MacArthur project to continue.



RENDERING FROM DLR GROUP, ARCHITECTURE FIRM OVERSEEING THE DESIGN PROCESS

MacArthur modernization project, expected to be finished in January 2023. Source: DLR Group.

BY BRIDGETTE ADU-WADIER
GAZETTE PACKET

City Hall is scrapping its proposed budget, going back to the drawing board, eliminating a proposed two-cent increase in the property tax rate and slashing almost \$50 million in capital spending. The move comes as budget officials are scrambling

to account for dramatically reduced revenues, \$36 million in the current fiscal year and \$56 million in FY2021.

"I call it version 2.0," said City Manager Mark Jinks in a conference call with reporters. "The increase in tax rates would be an additional burden to homeowners."

Many projects are being delayed,
SEE BUDGET 2.0, PAGE 8

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Justice Delayed

When does a defendant no longer have the right to a speedy trial?

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Judges across Northern Virginia are about to be presented with a difficult question: Does the crisis created by the coronavirus pandemic trump a defendant's right to a speedy trial?

One judge in Madison County has already determined that it does, waiving the constitutional rights of a defendant charged with stealing a car. Advocates for civil liberties are worried that Gov. Ralph Northam's declaration of a state of emergency might be used as an excuse to overlook the right to a speedy trial and keep defendants awaiting trial behind bars indefinitely.

"Any time you use an excuse to void a constitutional right, that's a problem," said Claire Gastanaga, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia. "At a minimum those folks should not be languishing in jail awaiting trial since they are not yet people who have been determined to be guilty of anything."

Under Virginia law, defendants charged with felonies must be tried within five months if they are behind bars. Prosecutors have nine months to try defendants who are not incarcerated. That clock starts ticking after a preliminary hearing or an indictment, which means commonwealth's attorneys across Northern Virginia are looking at their calendars and trying to figure out what to do about cases from December and January. And if the Virginia Supreme Court extends the judicial emergency beyond April 26, a huge number of defendants charged with felonies in Northern Virginia may be in danger of losing their right to a speedy trial.

"The Constitution is pretty clear about a speedy trial right," said Patrick Anderson, a prominent criminal defense attorney in Northern Virginia. "The so-called conservative jurists like to talk about the letter of the law of the Constitution, but they're the ones of course who are the most activist judges."

THE CASE IN MADISON COUNTY may be a sign of things to come in Northern Virginia, as judges across Virginia start to hear from prosecutors who want to use the pandemic as a reason to waive the right to a speedy trial. The Madison County felony charge of theft of a motor vehicle happened back in July, and a one-day trial had been scheduled for March 25. Commonwealth's Attorney Clarissa Berry asked Circuit Court Judge Dale Durrer to waive the right to speedy trial

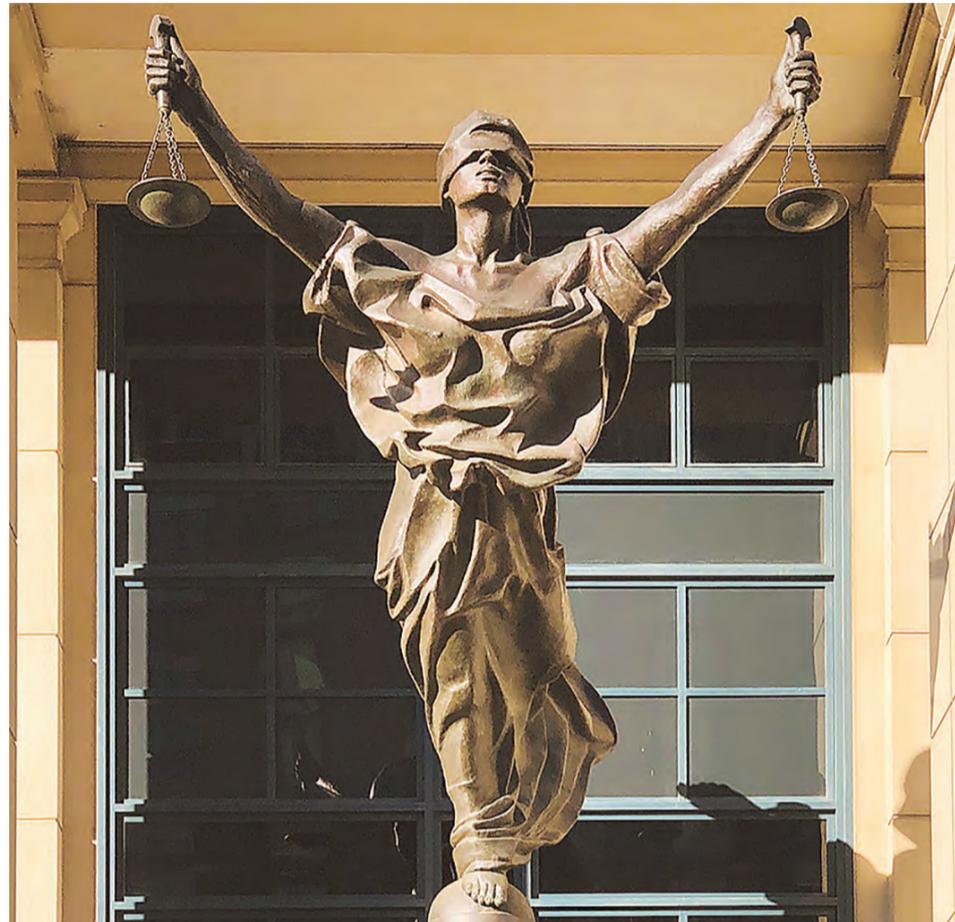


PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE GAZETTE

The title of the famous statue at the Albert Bryan U.S. Courthouse in Alexandria is "Justice Delayed, Justice Denied."

for defendant Brian Mills over the objections of his attorney.

"The coronavirus rises to the level of a natural disaster as a communicable disease of a public health threat," the judge wrote in a March 19 opinion. "In this case, the reasons for any delay in the trial are based on unforeseen circumstances of the virus that are worsening daily and almost exponentially. Further, the court has an obligation to protect the health and safety of jurors summonsed for jury service."

In his opinion, Judge Durrer noted that the jury pool for the trial had 12 jurors over the age of 60 and seven jurors over the age of 55. In addition, he said, jurors were flooding the phone lines asking to be excused be-

cause of the pandemic and concerns about social distancing in the tight confines of the jury room and courthouse. Ultimately, he concluded that the section of Virginia code that defines a "natural disaster," in part, as a "communicable disease of public health threat" was sufficient to waive the constitutional right to a speedy trial.

"This is one trial court's opinion. It's not precedent for any other Virginia trial court," said Rich Kelsey, former assistant dean at the George Mason University School of Law. "Some other trial court could come out differently, finding that the law doesn't go as far as this judge says."

THE SPEEDY TRIAL statute presents pros-

ecutors with a stark timeline. Under normal circumstances, they need to either conduct a trial within the deadline or cut a plea deal. Prosecutors across Northern Virginia say the governor's declaration of a state of emergency is all that's needed to cite the part of Virginia code that creates an exemption for speedy trials based on "a natural disaster, civil disorder or an act of God."

"Not only do I think it's a viable safety valve in an emergency, I think that's exactly why that code section exists," said Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter. "But I also don't think that a judge would grant one for a very lengthy period of time. I mean it might be a week or two, maybe three weeks."

Social distancing is difficult if not impossible behind bars, so many advocates for criminal-justice reform are calling for prosecutors and judges to reconsider who is behind bars and whether they need to be there. The ACLU of Virginia, for example, is calling for all defendants accused of misdemeanors to be released. Others who have pushed for reforming the system say the pandemic should spark a new conversation about the need for mass incarceration.

"Perhaps in the longer term, the larger question this pandemic should force us to carefully reconsider is whether we overuse incarceration as the primary form of punishment," said Arlington Commonwealth's Attorney Parisa Deghani-Tafti in a written response to questions.

POLICE DEPARTMENTS across Virginia say crime is down significantly since the governor issued a stay-at-home order on March 30, and that law enforcement has focused on serious crimes rather than nuisance enforcement or traffic violations. Advocates for criminal-justice reform have long argued that too many people accused of crimes are being held behind bars because they could not afford to pay bail, overcrowding jails that are now petri dishes for community spread. Several prosecutors say they have already worked with the defense bar and local public defender's offices as well as sheriffs to decrease the jail population in response to the crisis.

"The courts do not seem to be very concerned about what's going on with the virus," said Anderson, the defense attorney. "We filed for reconsideration of bond motions for all of our incarcerated clients given the current crisis, and every single one of them was denied."

"Any time you use an excuse to void a constitutional right, that's a problem."

— Claire Gastanaga, executive director of the ACLU of Virginia

City of Alexandria Covid-19 Cases by Date

3/11	3/15	3/17	3/20	3/24	3/25	3/26	3/27	3/28	3/29	3/30	3/31	4/1	4/2	4/3	4/4	4/5	4/6	4/7
1	2	4	6	13	14	20	24	28	32	36	44	55	67	77	93	104	130	141

OPINION

A Pioneer in Leadership: Connie Belle S. Chissell

CHAR MCCARGO BAH

There were few African American women as prepared for leadership roles as Mrs. Connie Belle S. Chissell was, the wife of a medical doctor. She repeatedly demonstrated her leadership skills in African American organizations in Alexandria that are still here today.

Connie arrived in Alexandria with her three children (John T., Herbert G. Jr., and Connie) to be with her husband, Dr. Hebert Garland Chissell, Sr., in early 1930. They rented two houses, one for Dr. Chissell's medical office and the other one for their living quarters. The addresses were 907 Pendleton Street and 303 North Alfred Street.

She immediately enrolled her two boys in Parker-Gray School. Her daughter Connie was only three-years old when they moved to Alexandria. Mrs. Chissell was a stay-at-home mom until her youngest child started school.

THE OTHER ALEXANDRIA One of Connie's immediate priorities was to register to vote. She and her husband were registered in Albemarle

County, Virginia before they moved to Alexandria. In July 1930, Connie registered to vote in Alexandria. She was one of those women who took advantage of the Women Suffrage Movement. Connie also supervised the 1934 construction of their new home at 521 South Royal Street.

Connie and several Alexandrians formed the Hopkins House Association in 1939 to establish the Hopkins House. The Association began without any government funds, and the early members volunteered their services. Services included a daycare nurse and after-school programs. Soon Hopkins House became eligible for funding through the Community Trust, which is known today as United Way.

Because of Connie's leadership skills, her peer group elected her as the first director of the Hopkins House, serving from 1939 to 1952. During her tenure, several programs and other



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK YOUNG

Connie B. Chissell on a 41-day Mediterranean and Near East cruise in 1964.

groups were established. She founded the African American Library; a meeting space for the Alexandria Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She offered activities for the Society for the Prevention of Delinquency. She set up an employment clearinghouse for African American veterans of World War II. She established a scholarship fund for graduates of Parker-Gray High School. She organized a group to work with the city to convert the nearby closed USO building on Pendleton Street to a recreation center for black children. The center provided shop classes, recreation, after-school programs, sewing and cooking classes, a place children spend time while their parents were at work.

Connie left her position in 1952 to take care of her husband who had a stroke. The Chissells moved to Baltimore, Maryland where their two boys had become medical doctors. Dr. Herbert G. Chissell Sr. died in 1957 in Baltimore, Maryland.



Dr. Herbert G. Chissell and Connie B. Chissell in front of their house.

Connie Belle Stigraves was born on July 6, 1901, in Rock Hill, South Carolina. She graduated with a degree in Business Administration in 1921 from Wilberforce University in Ohio. She married Dr. Herbert Garland Chissell in Tennessee on Oct. 28, 1921.

After the death of her husband, Connie became more involved with her children and grandchildren. She travelled around the world. She died in 1992 at the age of 91. She has one child living, her daughter Connie.

She was an exceptional woman for her time, and she truly made a difference in Alexandria. Today, the Hopkins House is a testament to Connie's legacy for parents to have childcare, and a place where their children can go before and after school.

Char McCargo Bah is a published author, freelance writer, independent historian, genealogist and a Living Legend of Alexandria. She maintains two blogs, <http://www.theotheralexandria.com> and <http://www.findingthingsforu.com>.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COVID-19 Crisis and Financial Crisis Facing Our Low Income Neighbors

Thousands of our neighbors here in Alexandria have no jobs, no income and no savings. The face a three-front war: what do they do about rent, utilities and food?

Just as the response to the virus itself focuses first on the immediate needs of those afflicted, but also on the importance of "flattening the curve" so that all aren't sick at once, overwhelming our health care facilities, equipment and staff, it is no different in facing the financial crisis of our needy neighbors.

This crisis is not simply one of

those neighborhoods that we know house low income families. We are even getting calls from millennials who lost their jobs and are stunned that they too have no income or savings to pay their rent, utilities and food needs.

First, it is imperative that we deal with those needing food. Callers to our helpline, city agencies and other charities and non-profits are noting their shortage of food. This is despite heroic efforts by our schools to provide food and meals, ALIVE via its mass distribu-

tion programs and home deliveries, Senior Services of Alexandria with its Meals on Wheels and food deliveries to the elderly, and many local organizations and churches. It's simply not enough until at least more funds and volunteers are available and more importantly, there is sufficient income for families via unemployment insurance, direct payments under the stimulus bill, SNAP and other benefits.

I appeal to all those who can give, please join in Alexandria's annual giving program, Spring

g2Action. Donations are being accepted now, and the actual day of the campaign is April 14. Please consider those organizations noted above who are dealing with the food crisis, including our own. We are providing thousands of dollars of gift cards to our needy neighbors every day. Go to Spring2Action.org to donate.

But what about rent and utilities? Under the Commonwealth's Supreme Court ruling, evictions are deemed non-essential to the work of our courts. According to our Sheriff's office, no summons for court hearings for evictions is

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

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PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

The body of a DC resident was discovered washed ashore April 5 at Founders Park.

Body Washes Ashore at Founders Park

The Alexandria Fire Department and EMS recovered the body of an adult male from the Potomac River on the afternoon of April 5 along Founders Park in Old Town.

At 12:27 p.m. that afternoon, the AFD Twitter account reported that the Alexandria Police Department was assisting the Fire Department with a water rescue in the

300 block of North Union Street and to expect police and fire activity in the area.

Police have since determined that the deceased was a 51-year-old resident of Washington, D.C. His identity has not been released. An autopsy is pending and the investigation is ongoing

-JEANNE THEISMANN

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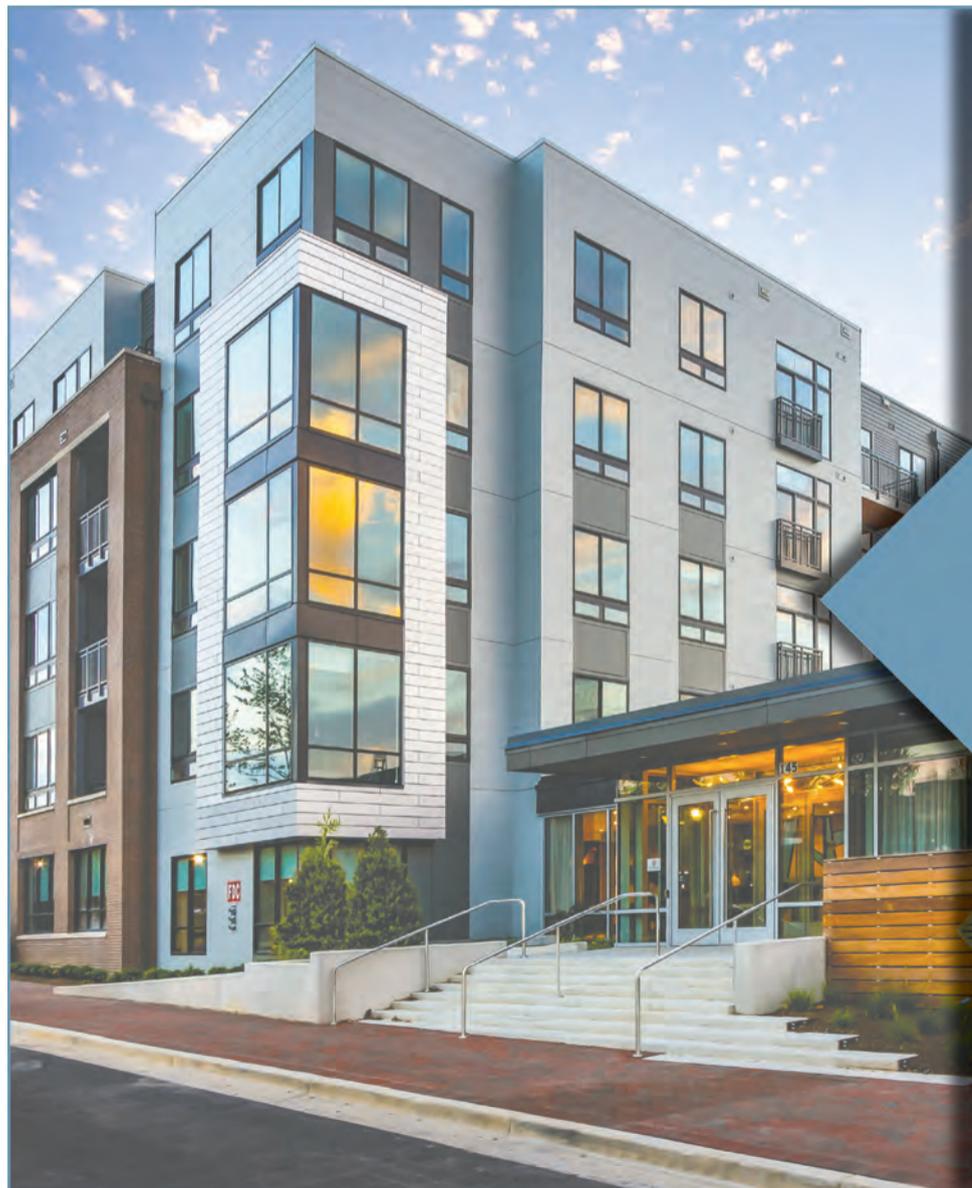
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Farmers Markets to Go Pre-orders only as markets adjust to state mandates.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Farmers Markets across the city are adapting to strict guidelines placed on them due to mandates by Gov. Ralph Northam allowing food vendors only to provide service to customers who have placed pre-orders.

“We are doing what we can to make this work,” said Del Ray Farmers Market founder Pat Miller. “A lot of our vendors don’t have websites so they are taking orders over the phone. Other vendors are taking orders and delivering them.”

The Visit Alexandria website has a new ALX at Home section dedicated to the city’s five Farmers Markets. Each market on the site – Old Town, Del Ray, North Old Town, West End and Four Mile Run – lists contact information for vendors that are taking pre-orders.

“Right now we have six vendors

that are coming,” Miller said. “All vendors are set up 10 feet apart and a volunteer is stationed to allow only 10 customers to enter at a time. We are trying to make this work and still keep people safe.”

Miller noted that most vendors want requests to be placed by Wednesday or Thursday to allow time to fulfill and package each order.

“We are still learning but it worked last weekend very nicely,” Miller said.

Information on placing an order for each Farmers Market can be found at www.visitalexandriava.com/alxathome/farmers-market.

The Old Town Farmers Market, dating back to the 1700s, operated April 4 under strict guidelines set by Gov. Ralph Northam’s Executive Order allowing food vendors to fulfill pre-orders only.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

A Little ‘TLC’ Makes All the Difference for Many Shelter Cats

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET

When it comes to cats who find their way to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA), a room known as Healthy Hold may be the most important stop. That’s the place where all cats brought to the shelter — whether they are found as strays, surrendered by owners or transferred in from other areas — are first housed, and where they meet a dedicated cadre of staff and volunteers who provide care, affection and understanding for as long as those cats need.

Healthy Hold’s dozens of cat enclosures are the first place each cat has the chance to relax after an initial exam checking for illnesses, injuries or parasites, as well as delivering preventive vaccines. Some cats in the room await spaying or neutering, while others need some time to adapt to their new environment, and still others are recovering from medical conditions after treatment by the veterinarian. Mother cats with litters of kittens usually stop off at Healthy Hold before moving on to a foster home for more intensive care.

“It can be a very scary time for the cats when they arrive at the shelter, with all of the new sounds and smells,” says AWLA Animal Care Manager Shayla Donnelly. “Many need the voice or touch of a person to start to come out of their shell.”

That’s where the AWLA’s Animal Care Associates come in. Besides keeping track of the cats’ eating habits and proper use of the litterbox, they relay any health issues observed to the shelter’s medical team. They also keep an eye on the cats’ behaviors, noting if they are friendly, shut down or even aggressive, to determine whether they might benefit from some socialization in a staffer’s



A pipe cleaner wielded by TLC volunteer Sherri Mahlik gets Theodore on his toes at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.

office or perhaps some time in a foster home before going to the adoption floor. The Animal Care Associates also make sure each cat receives a daily enrichment, which can range from treat puzzles to paper bags filled with catnip and toys that challenge them.

Supporting the staff in Healthy Hold is a group known as the TLC Volunteers. Chosen to undergo training for the position after volunteering with cats at the shelter for at least a year, these volunteers have demonstrated that they are patient, resilient cat whisperers, says Echo Keif, AWLA Manager of Volunteers and Community Events. After receiving guidance from a mentor as well as hands-on experience, this team helps to pro-

vide enrichment and socialization so these cats can feel safe and gain confidence. The volunteers play music for the cats, talk to them, offer them treats, pet and brush them. “And they also help make sure everyone gets a little spoonful of tuna and those tempting enrichment items,” Keif said.

Working in Healthy Hold is full of challenges — and can require mastering some feline psychology. TLC volunteer Cindy Broome says she doesn’t try to touch a cat who appears upset or confused but instead just stands nearby and talks to the animal, letting the cat get used to her presence. Once the cat seems calmer, she opens the enclosure door.

“I try to put myself in their place, and an outstretched hand from above looks scary,” said Broome, a federal employee who spends most weekend afternoons at the shelter. “So I crouch down a bit and extend my closed hand from lower down. At that point the cat might duck his head for a pet. I let him call the shots.” Some of the cats in Healthy Hold, however, are anything but frightened of people, hungry for interaction and meowing loudly when a volunteer enters the room.

Besides socializing with the cats, volunteers will check food and water bowls and look for any problems with using the litter box, noting everything in a binder that contains a page for each cat. “We’re the extra eyes and ears for the staff,” Broome said.

The work of the Animal Care Associates and TLC volunteers all becomes worth it when they see a shy, fearful cat develop confidence and prepare to meet her future family. TLC volunteer Carol Ramkey’s notes from February show how the team’s work with “FeeFee” helped her quickly transition from Healthy Hold to adoptability:

2/7 - FeeFee is an “owner surrender” who just arrived and was very frightened. She was hiding and hissing, so I just talked to her and blinked a bit then left her alone to settle.

2/11 - FeeFee is still very frightened but did let me give her some treats. She wouldn’t let me touch her, and I didn’t want to push it since she is so fearful.

2/13 - FeeFee moved into Cat Visit 1 (adoption room) yesterday, and our little shy girl has turned into a social butterfly. She’s hanging out in the window, accepting pets and brushing, playing with her wand toys and having a good time.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DESILVA STUDIOS LLC

APPETITE

Grab Takeout, Delivery From One of These Spots

BY HOPE NELSON

As the stay-at-home order continues through another week, Alexandria restaurants are striving to keep up with demand for a break from the home cooked norm. As Gov. Ralph Northam's stay-at-home order allows for carryout or delivery, the city's diners can still take a bit of a timeout for some good food – or drink – from neighborhood eateries and breweries. Here are five spots around the city offering up a little something special.

London Curry House, 4906 Brenman Park Drive

Closed for a while at the beginning of the stay-at-home order, Cameron Station's London Curry House opened its doors again this week to offer up carryout from a limited menu. During the latter half of each week, choose your options from a temporary – but still robust – menu featuring samosas, tikka masala, chana masala, shrimp curry, palak paneer and more. Be sure to add some naan into the order, and maybe pick up a dessert to round things out – why not? 4-8 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. Check out the menu at londoncurryhouse.com and then call 703-419-3160 to order.

Mia's, 100 King St.

Mia's has the curbside-pickup game down to a science. The restaurant is using the beautiful wide windows at the front of the building to serve as various pickup locations for food, beverages (including beer and wine) and more. While the restaurant is offering a relatively limited menu at the moment, all the best sellers are on it: a giant meatball or warm olives to start, the Sunday salad, several pasta options and, of course, nearly a dozen pizza styles. Or pick up a family-style meal instead for about \$25. Noon-9 p.m. daily. Order online at miasitalian.com or call 703-997-5300.

Aslin Beer Company, 847 S. Pickett St.

In need of a brew to toast ... anything? Aslin has you covered with both curbside pickup and delivery. Order online or call ahead, pay online and swing by to pick up your order during business hours; or let the beer come to you by way of delivery (minimum \$75 purchase; a \$10 fee applies). From the brewery's Nuances of Meaning IPA to the Stating the Obvious Vienna lager, you'll have a vast array of styles to choose from in the brewery's always-changing stockpile. 11

a.m.-8 p.m. Order online at aslin-beer.com or call 571-431-7603.

Lavender Moon Cupcakery, 116 S. Royal St.

A sweet treat is a must-have in these trying times – or any time, really. And Lavender Moon is keeping the cupcakes coming during the shutdown.

Cherry bourbon pecan, pinot noir, Boston crème, vanilla vanilla, flourless chocolate and more

are ripe for the picking daily. Call ahead for a curbside pickup, or arrange for delivery within Old Town. 11 a.m.- 8 p.m. 703-683-0588.

Chadwicks, 203 Strand St.

The venerable all-American restaurant near the water is open daily for lunch and dinner, with virtually its entire menu available for the ordering. BBQ ribs. Build-your-own burgers. Crab cakes.

Fried green tomato grilled cheese sandwiches. Order your fill for pickup or delivery and comfort food awaits. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. daily. Order online at chadwicksrestaurants.com or call 703-836-4442.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at athope@kitchenrecessionista.com.



PHOTO BY HOPE NELSON

Mia's on King Street has turned its front windows into pickup windows for restaurant takeout.

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Budget 2.0

FROM PAGE 1

set aside for a later date when funds are expected to be more flush. At the top of that list is the high school project, postponing the plan to demolish the existing Minnie Howard campus of T.C. Williams High School and replace it with a new facility. Other important capital projects that will have to wait include flood mitigation, broadband expansion, repairs to the Torpedo Factory and improvements to Waterfront Park. Salary increases for city workers and school employees will also be frozen.

“There’s trade-offs, nobody’s happy with the results,” said James Burroughs, associate professor of public administration at George Mason University. “It’s more appropriate to spread out cuts to avoid really sacrificing.”

THE REVISED BUDGET cuts 1.6 percent out of the operating budget for the current fiscal year, and 6 percent out of FY2021. Although 20 city services and programs will be scaled back, the Alexandria Health Department is expected to receive \$1 million from the CARES Act, funds that health officials plan to spend

on epidemiological staffing. The city manager also plans to defer a proposed 1.5 percent pay increase for city employees, and School Board members are considering a plan to reduce pay increases to save an additional \$7 million.

“Communities and interest groups all want a slice of pie. You will hear people say, ‘don’t cut my projects,’” said Burroughs. “But the same cuts have to be made. How do you get to that number?”

Although planning for the expansion of T.C. Williams at the Minnie Howard campus continues, funding has been delayed and city officials now anticipate signing a contract for construction in 2023. The city manager says the plan to address leaking windows and water damage at MacArthur Elementary School is a “higher priority,” especially with the logistics challenge involved in the swing-space-land-swap with Patrick Henry Elementary. The Complete Streets project will be taking a hit, but plans to fix the sanitary sewer problem and improve stormwater management are expected to continue.

“It’s very expensive to play that game of catch-up,” said Mayor Justin Wilson. “You do have to cut the budget responsibility too and that’s going to be very difficult for us. Capital is very easy to put off. You can say, ‘our streets haven’t been paved in five years, well, we’ll pave it next year.’”

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

YMCA OFFERS FREE PRODUCE

The local YMCAs are offering free produce distribution during the coronavirus crisis. Produce is available for anyone, free of charge, regardless of their affiliation with the YMCA. Produce will be distributed at the following location:
YMCA Alexandria, 420 East Monroe

Ave., Alexandria. Available Mondays 4-6 p.m., Tuesdays 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

CHANGES TO TROLLEY, DASH BUSES

Beginning March 30, DASH will discontinue the King Street Trolley service until further notice. DASH

buses are still available, and will implement an Enhanced Sunday Operating Plan on weekdays and Saturdays. No changes will be made to regular Sunday service. While most routes will follow their regular DASH Sunday timetables, additional trips and services will also be provided.

OBITUARY

Herbert A. (Pete) Holt, 74

On April 5, 2020, Herbert A. (Pete) Holt, age 74, died peacefully at home surrounded by his family. Pete had courageously battled a four year illness with pulmonary fibrosis.



Herbert A. (Pete) Holt

Pete was born on June 24, 1945 in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and was the son of Mattie and Herbert A. Holt Jr., who were the owners of Holt Buick. Pete received his Bachelor’s degree in City Planning from the University of Virginia in 1969 and his Master of Public Administration from George Washington University in 1977.

Pete had a distinguished career as a Senior level executive with over thirty years of progressively responsible leadership in government and the private healthcare industry. He served as the Director of the Department of Mental Health

Services in Montgomery County, Maryland from 1986-1995. Pete led the creation and establishment of a 350 person staff.

Pete served as the President of the National Association of County Behavioral Health Directors. Additionally, he served on the Executive Board of the Maryland Association of Community Mental Health Programs. He was also named as a Fellow to the American College of Mental Health Administration.

Pete is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Cheryl Adams Holt; daughter Hillary Vasquez; grandsons Conner and Peyton Vasquez; and sister-in-law Dr. Rebecca Cobb Adams.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in Pete’s memory may be made to: The Twig P.O. Box 26324, Alexandria Virginia 22313 There will be no funeral service.



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To Protect and Serve

Battle, Fox and Landers named Officers of the Year.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria Firefighter-Paramedic David Fox, Alexandria Sheriff's Office Deputy Ashley Battle, and Senior Conservation Police Officer Richard Landers were honored as the 2019 Law Enforcement Officers of the Year March 11 by the American Legion Post 24 in Old Town. The public safety veterans were recognized for their service to the community as part of the American Legion's Homeland Security Support Program.

"Tonight, we are honoring three outstanding public safety officers," said Mike Mixon, chair of the American Legion's HSSP program. "One from the Alexandria Fire Department, one from the Alexandria Sheriff's Office, and one from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries whose jurisdiction includes the City of Alexandria. It is truly a pleasure to recognize and honor these outstanding law enforcement officers."

In presenting the citation to Fox, Mixon noted his 18-year career as a City of Alexandria Firefighter-Paramedic. Fox has been instrumental in managing and operating the Fire Department's Simulation Lab which provides life-like scenarios for training first responders to properly mitigate medical emergencies.

Sheriff Dana Lawhorne was on hand to congratulate Battle, a three-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office. Battle also serves on the ASO Emergency Response Team, which is a select group of deputies trained to respond to and handle high risk cell extractions, and to provide safe, effective and efficient assistance in maintaining or restoring order in the Detention Center. Battle is the third female in the history of the Sheriff's Office chosen to serve in this capacity.

Landers is a 15-year veteran serving as a Senior Conservation Police officer. In this capacity,



Alexandria Sheriff's Office Deputy Ashley Battle, third from right, poses for a photo after being presented with the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award March 11 at the American Legion Post 24. Joining Battle are (l-r): Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, Captain Lynn Oliver, Post 24 Commander Henry Dorton, Chief Deputy Candra Callicott and Sergeant Gregory Perez.



Alexandria Firefighter-Paramedic David Fox, right, stands at attention as Mike Mixon of American Legion Post 24 reads a proclamation and Post 24 Commander Henry Dorton awaits the presentation of the Officer of the Year Award March 11.

he has sought ways to make enforcing laws more consistent and community oriented. Landers has also authored several Standard Operating Procedures in support of the Department's commitment to best management practices. He serves on the Office of Professional Services Advisory Council as an advisor and advocate for various professional standards initiatives.

"These outstanding public safety professionals represent the dedicated men and women serving within our area's public safety agencies," said Post 24 Commander Henry Dorton. "We cannot thank them enough for what they

do to keep our community safe and secure and we appreciate this opportunity to honor and recognize them."

According to Mixon, the Post 24 HSSP was established in 2014 to raise awareness of and promote volunteer service to local homeland security affiliated organizations.

"On an annual basis, the Post 24 HSSP also recognizes outstanding public safety officers who serve our community," Mixon said. "We salute you and thank you for your superb service to our community. You represent the very best in our city."

PHOTOS BY JOHN BORDNER

Obituary

Obituary

Constance Ann Scholl Schaub



Connie Schaub of Williamsburg, VA went to be in glory with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on March 30. For 40 years she had been a resident of Fairfax County. She was born on September 21, 1948 to Mary Lattig Scholl and Edmund R. Scholl in Irvington, New Jersey. She went to Perth Amboy High School and then Caldwell College in New Jersey. While in college she met and fell in love with Peter Schaub. They were married on November 28, 1970 and moved to Northern Virginia. Connie worked in the travel business until she stayed at home to raise her children, Gretchen and Johanna. She was a tireless worker on behalf of her children and was for many years employed in the Fairfax County schools. Upon retirement in 2010, she moved with Peter to the Williamsburg area. She made friends easily and was devoted to these many relationships through the years. She was an active volunteer serving at Grove Christian Outreach Center in their summer lunch and Christmas programs for children. Her commitment to others in her way of life was a testimony to her faith. Connie and her husband Peter have been active members of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, where she taught a ladies Bible study. Connie is survived by her husband Peter, daughters Gretchen Williams and Johanna Schaub Aipperspach, her granddaughter Kelsey Aipperspach who was a God given joy to her, her sister Roberta Lisi, niece Jennifer Martelli, nephews Lance Brossa and Jesse Brossa, great niece Nina Brossa, and great nephew Joseph Martelli.

Obituary

Obituary

Patricia Ann Rafuse 12/9/38 - 4/3/20



HYANNIS, MA -- Patricia Ann Rafuse (née Wahl) passed away peacefully April 3, 2020. She is sorely missed by her loving children Jonathan, Heather, and Amanda; her grandchildren Abby and Sam Higgins, and Melia and Caleb Rafuse; her son-in-law Peter Higgins and daughter-in-law Leticia Palos-Rafuse; her sister-in-law Franny Macdonald and Franny's three children Jennifer, Sean, and Jackie; and her niece Kris Wahl; her many close friends from throughout her life.

Born in Glen Ridge, New Jersey, on December 09, 1938, to Oswald and Anna Rita (Murphy) Wahl, Patty excelled at athletics (field hockey, tennis, cheerleading), music, academics, and creating long-lasting and loyal friendships. Patty's father Oswald Edward Wahl died at age 27 when Patty was just three years old and she and her brother Richard were raised by their mother Anna and their Aunts Louise and Helen. These women raised Patty to be the smart, hard-working, independent, funny, adventurous, courageous, and loyal person we all loved. Patty was predeceased by her parents and aunts, by her brother Dick and his wife Kay and their son Rich.

Inspired by her Aunt Helen, a career teacher and school principal, Patty graduated from Paterson State College in New Jersey with a degree in education. Her love and talent for elementary school education parlayed itself into a long career: she taught in Orange, NJ, Dedham, MA, Palos Verdes, CA, and was a Founding Teacher at the renowned Capitol Hill Day School in Washington, DC. Hundreds of students around the country were impacted by Patty's dedicated passion for learning.

Patty joins her beloved husband of 56 years, Jack, who passed away in October 2019. Patty and Jack met, married, and spent summers their entire married lives on Cape Cod. Following Jack's career in government and as an energy policy expert, they lived, worked, and raised their family in Massachusetts, on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, and in Palos Verdes, California. In 1993 they returned to the DC area and lived in Old Town Alexandria, VA. No matter where their lives led them, they always returned to Cape Cod for summers. Patty was Jack's beloved "Beauty" -- a nickname that passed on to their grandchildren. Their devotion to one another continues to inspire all who knew them.

Family came first for Patty. She and Jack encouraged their children to follow their distinct paths. Eldest son Jonathan graduated from UCLA, has an MA from Antioch University, and works with his wife Lety for Autism Partnership in Los Angeles, California; Melia and Caleb are their smart, talented, joyful children. Heather graduated from the University of Colorado. She and her husband Pete, married 20 years and living in Chatham, MA, are entrepreneurs/home-builders whose children Abby and Sam are smart, giving, and athletic. Amanda graduated from Notre Dame and holds an MFA from the University of Missouri in Kansas City. She is a theater-maker and consultant for social-profit organizations. These hard-working, loving, smart, friendly people inspire family and friends. They all miss her compassionate, fierce, and funny presence immensely.

True to her nickname Beauty, Patty had a talent for bringing touches of graciousness into the world -- she had a song for every occasion, a way of making spaces beautiful, and a gift for making everyone feel welcome and special. Her faith and Catholicism were guiding lights throughout her life; Patty was a devoted member of St. Mary Basilica (Alexandria, VA), and Holy Redeemer (Chatham, MA).

A memorial will be held on Cape Cod. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests tributes and donations to the Cape Cod Healthcare Foundation. Cards and memories are welcome and appreciated. For online condolences, please visit www.nickersonfunerals.com.

God loves you, Beauty. And so do we.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to replace an existing 25' wood utility pole with a new 35' wood utility pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 39.3' at 300 S Fairfax St, Alexandria, VA (20200256). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to replace an existing 23.25' wood utility pole with a new 33' wood utility pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 35.25' at 5510 Vine St, Alexandria, VA (20200317). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

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Manual Labor



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Having recently received in the mail the three-ring binder/manual on the dos, don'ts and what-fors concerning the upcoming treatment for my stage II papillary thyroid cancer; and information as well (including a cookbook) about the low iodine diet I am instructed to start two weeks before my actual treatment begins, my takeaway is that it is going to be long and hard six weeks from start to post-quarantine finish.

The reason for my apprehension is twofold. First and foremost is that I am an extremely picky/limited eater. There's only a handful of foods that I will eat on my best day ('best day' meaning completely normal circumstances where cancer is not involved), let alone on my worst day ('worst day' meaning in the midst of cancer treatment where what I eat is restricted). As a direct anticipated result, I fear there may be some heavy lifting - metaphorically speaking, ahead, specifically between April 27 and June 4.

The second reason which compounds the problem referred to in the previous paragraph is that we happen to be in the midst of a pandemic. Accordingly, the pandemic and the associated stay-at-home directives will minimize casual visits to the supermarket, restrictions intended to prevent the spread of the virus. Moreover, due to panic buying and the likely employee/staffing shortages at the supermarkets as the virus continues to take its toll, there may be more and more food shortages which will further eliminate what few food choices I had in the first place, before I even start this specialized diet.

This second reason is made even problematic because I am very much in an at-risk category: over 60, underlying medical condition with a compromised immune system, which prevents me or rather empowers my wife to prevent me from doing what I have done (the shopping) primarily, for the entirety of our marriage. That process never suited my wife, but it has always suited me. Consequently, I have become dependent on my wife to perform many of the tasks I have spent a lifetime perfecting: what to buy where, and when, and how to save some money doing it. Let's just say I am, as Sy Sims and his daughter Marci used to say, "an educated consumer." In our marriage, I have always described my role as the one taking care of the "business side," whereas my wife has always been the one taking care of the "social side." However, as we all try to navigate this pandemic, she is fulfilling both roles.

Now, as I roll the dice, so to speak, and plan/purchase for the present and the low iodine diet in the very near future, I am, to a certain degree, at her mercy. Given that the shopping process is hardly the adventure for her that it has always been for me, I have to rely, a little bit, on her benevolence and hope she keeps an open mind while in-store on the various indulgences that I require. Indulgences which, unfortunately, are very different from hers. As but one example, she loves a tuna fish sandwich whereas all I ever need is a cheese sandwich (and let's not even discuss the chocolate issue which is likewise not her priority as it is mine); and to quote my father: "the twain will never meet on the twack."

What many of us in this country have long taken for granted: 100 percent availability of food, medicine, health and miscellaneous household products is presently not so true anymore. Not purchasing some of these products until they go on sale is a pattern I likely won't be able to follow. If I do, their purchase may be too little, too late. The last thing my future diet/medical treatment can tolerate is 'too little, too late.' And I would imagine that unless I stay on track, the "twain" will be the least of my problems.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

likely to occur before July. This means tenants are secure in their homes. Regarding utilities, all have suspended cut offs indefinitely.

But what would happen if individuals and families let their rent (including late fees) and utility bills accumulate? When the summons is issued and utility bills required to be paid, the financial burden on low income families would be crushing. It would be similar to the peaks in the virus infection, overwhelming the ability of our City agencies and all charities combined to handle.

This will almost certainly occur during this summer. The prospect of many families being thrown out of their homes just before the new school year starts is frightening.

So how do we flatten the curve?

First, once the food crisis abates, the City and charities will have to turn their attention more to advocating that low income families use the benefits they will be receiving to devote whatever additional funds they have to pay as much of their rent and utility.

Second, the City and charities must themselves devote as much funding as

possible to rent and utilities. Of course, this depends on how much funding the Commonwealth and the City receive under the stimulus bill and increased donations to the charities.

Third, and perhaps the most critical way to flatten the curve, is for all landlords to waive late fees and begin discussions with tenants on long-term payment plans. Our utilities have done this for many years with individual customers, and I am confident they will do this on a widespread basis, but landlords are not accustomed to this practice.

Mayor Wilson has already appealed to landlords to do precisely what is described above. Some have already done so. Many more are needed, including all owners of apartment buildings.

To be sure, many businesses will fail regardless of programs to help them, many private landlords, who have mortgages to pay themselves, will not be able to extend help to their tenants if their mortgage holders don't treat them the same way.

The COVID-19 crisis has so many negative consequences, none of which are easy to resolve, that we must try our best to get through this together. New, innovative ideas and approaches are needed, but most importantly, let us keep in mind that as difficult as this is for all of us, there are many of our neighbors, businesses and families, who will fall through the cracks without our help.

My blessings to all during this holy season for Christians and Jews.

Jim Larocco

President, Basilica of Saint Mary Saint Vincent de Paul Society

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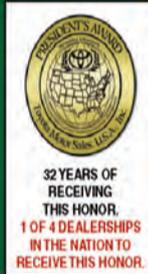
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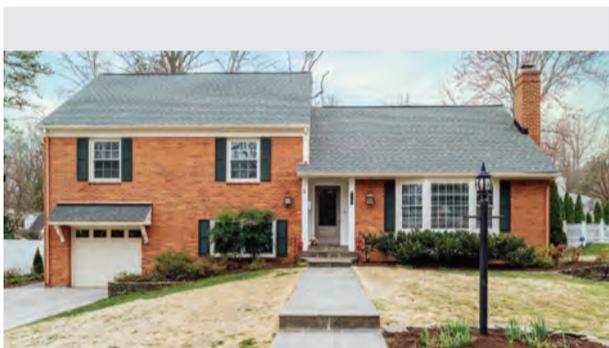
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www.SallyZHarper.com



Mount Ida | \$1,115,000

Built circa 1925, this updated and expanded, 4-bedroom, 4-bath home is an inviting combination of the Craftsman and Cottage styles. Main level with gorgeous woodwork & tall ceilings has fabulous flow. Charming brick patio off of the kitchen & family room.
Mason Montague Bavin 703.338.6007
www.MasonBavin.com



Waynewood | \$899,900

Beautifully renovated home in Waynewood! .31 acre yard on private cul-de-sac along GW trail and river! Open floor plan, glowing hardwoods & gas fireplace. French doors to sunroom overlooking yard & slate patio. Attic, garage, expanded driveway, Waynewood school!
Sue Dickerson 703.380.0153
www.suedickersonrealtor.com



Del Ray | \$799,900

Charming 3-bedroom, 1.5-bath home situated on large corner lot! Three bedrooms upstairs with large bathroom, hardwood floors on main and upper levels. Finished basement provides additional living space. Two car garage! Walk to all Del Ray has to offer.
Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



Rosemont | \$579,000

Beautifully updated duplex with hardwood floors throughout, just a third of a mile to the Braddock Road Metro. Freshly painted. Brand new kitchen and new bath. Finished lower level and pull-down stairs to floored attic storage space. HayesWoodHomes.com
Chris Hayes 703.944.7737
Gordon Wood 703.447.6138



Tannery Yard \$910,000

Ideally located in Old Town's S.E. Quadrant, this charming house has been uniquely remodeled to provide a bright spacious 4th level office with bookshelves, desk and private roof-top terrace. Private walled garden off kitchen. Upstairs are 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, all with generous closets. Assigned parking space!

Margaret Benghauser 703.989.6961
www.mbenhauer.com



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